Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-247
Tuesday
24 December 1991

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-91-247 *24 December 1991*

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ASEAN Leaders Preview Upcoming Summit

BK2412015491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0136 GMT 24 Dec 91

[by Peter Mackler]

[Text] Singapore, Dec 24 (AFP)—With the Cambodian crisis finally off its plate, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) looks set in 1992 to make its first real try at becoming an engine for regional economic cooperation.

Leaders of the six-nation group, who will be holding a summit here next month, are expected to take their boldest move in this direction with approval of plans to create an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) within 15 years.

ASEAN has been trying for a quarter century tighten economic links, and officials agree the latest move comes not a moment too soon, with Europe and North America pressing ahead rapidly to integrate their own markets.

"The pressure is greater now for us to make some headway in economic cooperation," Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong told AFP. "The Americans are moving, the Europeans are moving. We need to improve our position."

Grouping Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei, ASEAN had made its mark since 1979 mostly in the political arena as the front-line body opposing Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

But the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and the peace treaty signed October 23 by the Phnom Penh Government and its guerrilla rivals have taken the conflict off the regional agenda, even if Cambodia's problems are far from over.

Officials and analysts caution, however, that for all its impressive economic growth rates, ASEAN still faces a long road before achieving the goal of true cooperation, which has eluded it since its inception in 1967.

Members compete in exporting the same type of commodities, and intra-ASEAN trade is still lagging.

The group also suffers from uneven development, with countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines feeling particularly vulnerable to moves to open their markets.

ASEAN economic ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October hailed as a significant first step the framework proposal they adopted for an eventual common market linking about 300 million people.

But the accord expected to be signed at the January 27-28 summit is a watered-down version of the original AFTA idea put forth by Thailand, which envisioned phasing out trade barriers over 10 years instead of 15.

The agreement also omitted the key sectors of agriculture and services and allowed members to opt out of tariff-lowering arrangements for particular manufactured goods if they felt their industries were too vulnerable.

But for some officials, the unprecedented commitment to work towards a free trade area outweighed any deficiencies in the details of the project.

"If ASEAN does not rapdily form the AFTA," said Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar, "it is feared that ASEAN countries might join other planned free trade zones outside ASEAN which would only weaken ASEAN unity."

Even looser than AFTA is Malaysia's proposal for an East Asian Economic Group, first presented as a trade bloc to counter other regional groupings but progressively diluted amid unremitting opposition from the United States.

ASEAN economic ministers endorsed the idea, but renamed it the East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC] to emphasise its consultative role and gave it no institutional form or a timetable for meeting. Even the membership was left up in the air.

If Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is still lobbying hard for his proposal, officials in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines privately express doubts whether the EAEC will fly in the face of U.S. hostility and Japan's public reservations. As ASEAN moves towards greater economic cooperation it will also have to figure out what to do with Vietnam, its former nemesis in Cambodia which is moving toward free-market reforms and wants a piece of the regional pie.

ASEAN officials said the summit should have no problem approving Vietnam's request to accede to the 1976 ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, a largely symbolic pact.

Making Vietnam a dialogue partner or eventually full ASEAN member is more problematic, they said.

ASEAN leaders have stressed that future cooperation depended on Hanoi pursuing its liberalisation campaign and also on full nornmalisation of the situation in Cambodia.

But officials also acknowledge that forging economic links throughout the region was the best hedge against any future flareup of tensions, a point Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun made in a speech this month in Washington.

"I see economic cooperation in both trade and investment as the principle vehicle for building a web of interlocking ties among nations of Southeast Asia and thereby serving as a means of strengthening the fabrics of peace and security in the region," Anan said.

Japan

Miyazawa Hints at Concessions During Bush Talks

OW2412110691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated Tuesday that Japan might make concessions over trade issues during a summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush in early January, government officials said.

Miyazawa was quoted as saying, "Japan should respond adequately (to Bush's visit). (We) must do what we have to do by breaking with precedent and custom."

Miyazawa's comment, made to a joint meeting of the government and ruling party, follows a meeting Sunday with U.S. Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick, who visited Japan as Bush's personal emissary to prepare for his four-day visit beginning January 7.

Zoellick urged Miyazawa to make concessions on specific trade issues, including expanding Japan's imports of U.S.-made cars and car parts and increasing government purchases of U.S.-made computers.

Observers say Miyazawa's comment indicates he is prepared to consider measures which would include the easing of certification standards on emission controls to remove one of the chief "obstacles" to the import of U.S. cars.

Miyazawa told the meeting he expects the negotiations with Bush to be "very rigorous and tense."

"The Japan-U.S. relationship is important in every way and the economic situation in the U.S. is fairly stringent," Miyazawa said.

In an interview with journalists from his own Hiroshima riding the same day, Miyazawa said he is striving to produce a concrete response to firm U.S. requests on economic issues.

"It's not much use arguing points," Miyazawa said. "I want to consider what we can do."

Minister Promises Action on Automobile Issue

OW2412043391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe told reporters Tuesday that he believes automobile trade will be the biggest issue to be discussed during U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan beginning January 7.

Watanabe implied there is a need for concrete steps to be taken in response to expected U.S. demands for more purchases of U.S. autos and auto parts, saying, "we really have to get up and do something about it to make the President's visit a success."

In a related development, Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda, referring to U.S. calls for easing of standards on automobiles, said the U.S. car industry should not just call for more imports, but should tailor their products to Japanese consumers' needs.

"If there are any problems impeding imports, we intend to solve them in an active way. But we must ask the U.S. to keep the minimum rules pertaining to the preservation of the environment, such as the standards on exhaust gas," Okuda said.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick, who is in Tokyo to prepare for Bush's visit, urged Japanese officials Sunday to help boost U.S. car imports by relaxing Japan's standards and certification systems for automobiles.

The Transport Ministry has agreed to hold discussions on the matter at a technical level.

Real Growth Target Set Despite U.S. Doubts

OW2412030391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan will try to accomplish real growth of 3.5 percent in its gross national product (GNP) in Fiscal 1992 starting next April, through measures including monetary policy, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told reporters Tuesday.

Watanabe made the remarks in reference to his meeting Monday with U.S. Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick, who, according to Watanabe, said the government target was too optimistic.

Watanabe said he told Zoellick that next year's budget will be compiled with the 3.5 percent growth goal in mind, and Japan will take the necessary measures from an overall point of view.

Minister: No Hasty Decision on GATT Proposal

OW2412052691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0428 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Tuesday the government does not plan to make a hasty decision on the draft agreement on global trade proposed by the chief of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The pact, proposed at the Uruguay Round of trade talks Saturday by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, left Japan with a difficult political choice to make concerning the potential opening of its rice market.

Dunkel proposed that the 108 countries negotiating in the talks convert all nontariff farm trade barriers into tariffs that would be reduced gradually.

Watanabe told reporters that the United States and the European Community are dissatisfied with the proposal and that negotiations on the pact will go well beyond the end of the year.

He said the negotiations are also likely to continue after January 13, when the negotiating countries are expected to take various stands on the proposal at a GATT Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meeting.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu told another news conference that a final decision on the proposal may be delayed until early next year, noting that the TNC meeting signals the start of further negotiations.

Hata on Yen Value, New Commonwealth of States

OW2412041291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Tuesday that the recent "moderate rise" in the value of the yen against the U.S. dollar is "not bad" for the Japanese economy.

He told reporters after a cabinet meeting, however, that an accelerating rise in the yen's value would be "dangerous" and that a close watch needs to be kept on market trends.

Hata also said the undertone of the Japanese economy is still firm.

Regarding reports that U.S. President George Bush might ask Japan during his visit next month to lower its official discount rate to correct the increased value of the yen, Hata said Japan "has its own judgment." Japan's discount rate now stands at 5.0 percent per annum.

On another subject, Hata said Japan would be willing to supply aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States, created to replace the Soviet Union, when the association is ready to receive such aid.

He said such aid will be provided in coordination with other members of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the U.S., and Britain.

Hata was commenting on reports that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was about to resign.

Foreign Minister Praises Gorbachev Initiatives

OW2412032191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday praised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for taking initiatives toward the abolition of nuclear arms.

Watanabe told a news conference that Gorbachev has brought democracy to the Soviet Union through his perestroyka and glasnost policies. "His achievements will remain in history."

The foreign minister was commenting on reports that Gorbachev will soon announce his resignation as Soviet president.

Despite criticism of incomplete economic reforms, Gorbachev launched a campaign to abolish nuclear weapons and brought about a turning point in history, Watanabe said.

Spokesman Says Tokyo To Recognize Russia Soon

OW2412125591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan will recognize the Russian Government soon as successor to the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Recognition will come "in the not so distant future"—perhaps as early as Friday's cabinet meeting—if there is unified control of nuclear weapons under the newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States, Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said.

"But it won't be a matter of recognizing a (new) state. We are considering recognizing it as a new government," Watanabe told reporters.

"The Soviet Union is definitely in the process of dissolving," he said.

Watanabe said recognition of other former Soviet republics would involve their recognition as states.

Japan will monitor the stance of European countries and confer with Western countries over recognition, he said.

But Watanabe said recognition of the Georgian Republic would be delayed because of human rights problems and the uncertain domestic situation.

Cabinet Approves Foreign Minister's PRC Visit

OW2412022791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0155 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will leave Tokyo on January 3 for talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen the following day, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

During a four-day stay in Beijing through January 6, Watanabe hopes to meet with Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, the officials said.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday approved Watanabe's visit to China, they said.

Cabinet Spokesman Previews Miyazawa ROK Agenda

OW2412042291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0412 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan and South Korea announced simultaneously Tuesday that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will make an official visit to South Korea from January 16 to 18 in his first overseas trip since assuming the premiership November 5.

Miyazawa is the second prime minister in Japan's history, after Yasuhiro Nakasone, to choose South Korea as a first official destination abroad.

During the three-day official visit, Miyazawa will meet South Korean President No Tae-u twice in Seoul to discuss international affairs and situations in Northeast Asia, as well as deepening cooperation between the two countries.

He will also give a speech on Japan-South Korea relations and situations in Asia, and will visit the ancient South Korean city of Kyongju.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said situations involving the Korean Peninsula are rapidly changing, and the two leaders "will exchange opinions frankly" about a dialogue between South and North Korea, North Korea's alleged nuclear development, and normalization talks between Japan and North Korea.

At a news conference after a cabinet meeting, Kato also said he hopes Miyazawa and No will build personal relationships of trust through the two rounds of the summit talks.

He added Miyazawa's visit to South Korea will be an important step to promote a "future-oriented" friendship between the two countries as they head into the 21st century.

In Seoul, a presidential spokesman said South Korea expects Miyazawa's visit will be an important occasion, and that it will help cement friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries as partners working toward an Asia-Pacific era in the next century.

LDP, DPRK Delegates Agree on Fishing Quotas

OW2112005091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—North Korea agreed Friday to comply with a Japanese request to raise Japan's 1992 fishery quota within North Korea's 200-mile waters by 30 percent, Liberal Democratic Party officials said.

The accord was inked in Tokyo between a visiting delegation of the (North) Korea-Japan Friendship Promotion Association and the Japan-(North) Korea Parliamentary Friendship League.

The Korean delegation was headed by the association's secretary Han Byong-guk, while the parliamentary league is chaired by senior LDP House of Representatives legislator Hajime Ishii.

The new accord also calls for extending the validity of the existing fishery agreement that is due to expire December 31 for another two years, the officials said.

The latest accord stipulates that Japanese fishermen will be allowed a total fish catch of 4,950 tons in 1992 for the same fishing rights fee of 820,000 dollars (about 106.6 million yen) stipulated under the existing pact, they said.

The nongovernment bilateral fishery accord was worked out by the two delegations as Japan and Pyongyang currently have no diplomatic relations.

A new clause is incorporated in the agreement, saying, "if the governments of both countries should later reach a fishery accord, this agreement will be automatically invalidated."

Diplomatic normalization talks are currently under way but have made little progress so far in the face of a string of obstacles, such as Japanese objections to an alleged North Korean nuclear weapons program.

The two sides delegations agreed to hold another round of talks next year to decide upon a fishery quotas for 1993.

Miyazawa on End of Official Aid to Malaysia

OW2412063191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday that Japan will eventually stop providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the steadily growing Malaysian economy.

During an hourlong meeting with Mahathir, Miyazawa noted that Malaysia's economy is topping Japan's criteria for providing ODA, a Foreign Ministry official told reporters.

Malaysia's per-capita gross national product amounted to roughly 2,300 dollars in 1990, just below Japan's ODA standard of about 2,335 dollars.

Mahathir called for Japanese investments to complete his country's infrastructure and for continued yen loans.

But Mahathir did not bring up his proposal for an East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), which aims at boosting regional economy, the official said.

Mahathir proposed the grouping last year to counter what he fears are growing economic blocs in the West. It is expected to be formally endorsed by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at their summit in Singapore in January.

Japan has remained noncommittal on the EAEC, which has been strongly opposed by the United States, which would be omitted from the group and which says it could become a trade bloc.

The U.S., Japan's biggest market, has asked Japan to stay out of the grouping, preferring any regional cooperation to come within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum of which the U.S. is a member.

Turning to situations in Cambodia, Mahathir said all four factions there must abide by the peace agreement reached in October to end 13 years of war and set up an interim governing body until elections, expected for 1993, can be held under U.N. supervision.

Mahathir told Miyazawa it is important for the U.N. peace process to be carried out.

The Malaysian prime minister, on a 10-day visit to Japan, is scheduled to leave Thursday for a brief visit to South Korea.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Mahathir said he hopes for the democratization of Myanmar [Burma] but that the problem is "how to achieve it," the official said.

He said sanctions should be taken against the Yangon [Rangoon] government but the people must not suffer from it.

Touching on the situation in East Timor, Mahathir said one Malaysian student was killed in the shooting of civilians by Indonesian Government troops in November and that it was a "sad" incident.

But he said Kuala Lumpur has not taken any stance on the issue, noting that it's basic position is to first seek the truth of what happened.

The Indonesian Government earlier said 19 people were killed and 91 injured when soldiers opened fire on a large group of mourners as they were leaving Dili Cemetery.

Human rights groups claim more than 100 unarmed people were killed when the army opened fire.

The Malaysian prime minister is in Japan to attend the opening ceremony of a new Malaysian Embassy.

Ex-Im Bank Extends 4th Untied Loan to Indonesia

OW2412085391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan said Tuesday it has extended its fourth untied, two-step loan to Indonesia.

The loan of up to 42 billion yen is not tied to the purchase of Japanese goods and services and is to be disbursed through six financial institutions.

The funds will be used mainly for private enterprises in Indonesia, including joint ventures with foreign equity participation, bank officials said.

The loan is expected to supplement long-term financing requirements for capital-goods investment and to support the Jakarta government's private investment promotion policy, the officials added.

The investment promotion policy in sectors outside oil and gas uses the market price mechanism to improve production efficiency and international competitiveness.

However, a concomitant increase in foreign investment has resulted in balance-of-payments difficulties for Indonesia, forcing the country to postpone some big projects, bank officials said.

This loan falls under Japan's fund-recycling program to developing countries and its financial cooperation package for Indonesia for fiscal 1991.

Report Says Foreign Policy at Turning Point

OW2412025691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The changing international order and Japan's expanding influence in it have brought the country's foreign policy to a "turning point," according to the Foreign Ministry's annual diplomatic report released Tuesday.

"Japan today is in a position to affect virtually all issues related to the construction of a new international order," said the 594-page "Diplomatic Bluebook."

Thus, it is natural to expect Tokyo's future foreign policies to differ from those of the past, the report said, hinting the country will adopt a more active and value-oriented diplomatic posture.

The document spoke of a need to "reassess" the objectives of Japanese foreign policy and outlined four points it deemed important to meet future diplomatic goals:

—To engage actively in political diplomacy to enhance world peace and security.

—To demonstrate its stance clearly to participate in and cooperate with international efforts to protect such universal values as democracy and basic human rights.

—To place importance on global issues that require cooperation beyond national borders.

—To recognize that Japan's responsibilities and role in the international economy will continue to increase.

The Foreign Ministry report said that it will become increasingly important for Japan to demonstrate at home and abroad its vision of the "ideal world" and articulate its position on "universal values" through the conduct of its foreign policy.

The report suggested using Japan's massive aid program as leverage—rewarding countries trying to introduce democracy and punishing those that do not respect human rights.

Japan may on occasion have "make sacrifices" to fulfill its responsibility to realize certain universal ideals or objectives, it said.

Japan has reached a "turning point"—starting the third stage of its postwar development, the report said.

In the first stage, from the end of World War II through the 1960s, Tokyo's diplomacy was aimed at bringing Japan back into the international community and forging relationships necessary for reconstruction.

The second stage, according to the report, was characterized by Japan's efforts in the 1970s and 1980s to expand its role and responsibilities as a "Western industrialized democracy," though initially Japan confined its role to the economic area.

"There is no doubt that the evolution into a new phase, which was not seen during the 1970's and 1980's, is now being sought," the report said.

The new phase of Japan's diplomatic evolution stems partly from Tokyo's acceptance of a l: ger global political role, which has prompted other countries to "respect Japan's decisions," the report said. Japan's arguments are "beginning to have a considerable influence on the perception and policy judgment of the Western world."

The report said Japan must now broaden its policy coordination on international issues with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as the concept of the "West" has in the post-cold war era become ambiguous and that of "industrialized democracies" no longer applies to Japan alone in the region.

"Of course, this does not mean that Japan should depart from the alliance with the United States or the special relations of policy coordination with the Group of Seven (G-7) summit countries," it said.

On relations with the U.S., the report said that with the disappearance of East-West confrontation, "the bilateral alliance, which has been a political prerequisite dominating Japan-U.S. relations, is becoming less persuasive among the public."

It said that while the cooperative relationship between the two governments is "becoming closer," economic disputes have rekindled resentment between the Japanese and American peoples.

The report concluded that Tokyo and Washington must address the problem of mutual perceptions and strengthen ties, not only for their own sake, but for the stability of the Asia-Pacific region at large, where concern is beginning to be voiced about future Japan-U.S. ties.

Finance Ministry Outlines 1992 Budget Structure

OW2112005591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1442 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has decided to increase the general account budget for fiscal 1992 by 2.7 percent from the previous year's initial budget plan to 72.22 trillion yen, government officials said Friday.

The draft budget for fiscal 1992 is to be approved at a cabinet meeting Sunday morning and will then be presented to ministries.

The 2.7 percent increase in the general account will be the smallest in five years, reflecting the government's attempt at fiscal restraint.

The ministry has decided to cut tax allocations to the localities by 200 billion yen from the 1991 initial figure to 15.77 trillion yen as an effort to meet a revenue shortfall.

But the general operating expenditures, the core of the budget covering government spending on health and welfare, defense, education, and other areas, will rise 4.5 percent to 38.7 trillion yen, posting the second largest increase since fiscal 1981.

The ministry plans to raise taxes by 730 billion yen and issue construction bonds to a maximum 7.28 trillion yen to secure steady growth of public works spending amid falling tax revenue.

The public works spending will rise 4.5 percent from fiscal 1991.

The ministry has established two special funds of 200 billion yen each, with a view to boosting spending on infrastructure in line with Japan's pledge in trade talks with the United States to spend 430 trillion yen on public works projects in 10 years.

The rest of the general account budget has been earmarked for debt-servicing costs.

The ratio of bonds to total revenue will pick up to 10.1 percent from 7.6 percent in fiscal 1991, reaching the highest level in three years.

The ministry is still negotiating with the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Agency over official development assistance (ODA) and defense spending.

The ODA outlay is likely to grow around 6 percent, while defense spending will rise by slightly more than 3 percent, informed sources said.

But the negotiations will continue to the last minute before the cabinet finalizes the budget plan December 28.

The ministry is expecting only a minor 1.2 percent increase in tax revenue to 62.5 trillion yen in fiscal 1992 even with the planned tax hike.

In addition to the massive issue of construction bonds and spending cuts, the ministry is also expecting 2.2 trillion yen of nontax revenues, up 28 billion yen, to balance the budget.

LDP, SDP To Convene Ordinary Diet Session

OW2412041591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan's ruling and main opposition parties agreed Tuesday to convene the Diet on January 24 for a 150-day ordinary session through June 24, officials said.

Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), reached the accord in a meeting with Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Following the closing of the ordinary session, there will be triennial nationwide elections for the House of Councillors in July to elect half of its 252 seats.

Until last year, the ordinary session of the Diet was formally convened in late December, only to go into a monthlong year-end and New Year recess, with the substantial Diet session resumed in late January.

SDP Chairman Says Party To Forgive Dissidents

OW2112112391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe said Saturday he would exonerate former party members who left the largest opposition party over political differences in the past. Political analysts said the move was aimed at mending fences with groups that split from the SDP and formed smaller parties.

"I consider it important to restore the dignity and honor of former members who left the party over a conflict of views in the past," Tanabe said at a news conference after the party's three-day convention in Tokyo.

"I would like to let bygones be bygones to remove obstacles for the party's advance," he said.

Tanabe seemed to be referring to the late Saburo Eda, who served as secretary general of the party, which changed its English name in February from the Japan Socialist Party, political analysts said. Eda left the party in 1977 to form a minor opposition party which later developed into the United Social Democratic Party (UDSP).

The analysts said Tanabe was trying to improve his party's relationship with splinter groups, including the Democratic Socialist Party and the USDP headed by Eda's son Satsuki Eda.

Tanabe said the SDP will review records of disciplinary actions taken against party dissidents and reassess their contributions to the cause of the party. The party's disciplinary committee will act accordingly if the Central Committee decides to restore their reputation, he said.

Among principal members expelled from the party are the late DSP Chairman Suehiro Nishio, ousted in October 1959, USDP co-founders Yanosuke Narazaki, Hideo Den, and Yutaka Hata. The late Saburo Eda, secretary general of the Japan Socialist Party for three terms, was expelled in March 1977 after his proposal for the structural reform of the party came under fire. Four years ago, then Chairwoman Takako Doi paid homage to Eda at his tomb.

Politicians and analysts have recently suggested a coalition of progressive and moderate parties to try to wrest the government from the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has been in power continuously since 1955.

The SDP closed its convention Saturday after adopting an action program aimed at seizing power from the LDP. Tanabe and other executive officers were reelected.

Mitsubishi Plans To 'More Than Double' Imports

OW2412081391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said Tuesday it plans to more than double its imports by fiscal 1995 from their 1990 levels and drastically boost overseas purchases and cooperation with foreign automakers and parts suppliers.

Under its "business global partnership program," Mitsubishi said it will nearly double the value of imports from the fiscal 1990 level to 1 billion dollars in fiscal 1994 and boost them again in fiscal 1995 to 1,154 million dollars.

The automaker also said it will expand imports of passenger cars made at its U.S. plant and station wagons made at its Australian factory, and boost domestic sales of Mercedes-Benz vehicles imported from Germany.

Mitsubishi said it will double local procurements by overseas operations from their fiscal 1991 levels to 2,615 million dollars in fiscal 1995.

Mitsubishi is the fifth Japanese automaker to announce such a program, following Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co., and Mazda Motor Corp.

Together, the five companies are targeting fiscal 1994 imports of 7,390 million dollars, roughly a 1.7-fold jump from the fiscal 1990 level.

Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar Recognizes Commonwealth of States

HK2412082291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Beijing, Dec 24 (AFP)—Mongolia became Tuesday the first Asian country to recognize the independent states of the former Soviet Union.

"We are satisfied with the results of the meeting held December 21, 1991, in Alma Ata, which was the consequence of the process to create the Commonwealth of Independent States," the Foreign Ministry said.

"We consider that this was a step that has opened the way to cast off the political and economic crisis that has enveloped the Soviet Union," ministry spokesman Tserbishiyn Chimiddorj [name as received] said by telephone.

"On the basis of the documents and the agreements of the participants at the Alam Ata meeting, the Mongolian People's Republic recently decided to recognize the independent republics of the former Soviet Union and to develop close and friendly relations with them," Chimiddorj said.

'Non-Interference' Basis for Relations

OW2412100091 Beijing XINHUA in English 0939 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, December 24 (XINHUA)—Mongolia will develop its relations and cooperations with the members of the newly-formed Commonwealth of Independent States, Ganibal, a spokesman of the Ministry for External Relations announced here today.

In a statement read out at a press conference, the spokesman said that such kind of relations should be developed on the basis of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, respecting the way chosen by each side as well as equality and mutual benefit.

"We hold that the agreements and documents reached by participants of the Alma-Ata meeting have paved the way for overcoming serious crisis and stabilizing the situation in the Soviet Union," said Ganibal.

Ganibal said Mongolia and the Soviet Union signed more than 1,200 agreements and pacts in the past 70 years, and now over 200 of them are still effective. He believed the states of the commonwealth will continue to observe these agreements and pacts.

Mongolia established diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation in 1921. Since October this year it has recognized the independence of 14 other republics from the Soviet Union one after another.

North Korea

U.S. Urged To Renounce Cold War Nuclear Policy

SK2412044791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 24 Dec 91

["United States Must Renounce NCND Policy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry in a statement December 22 declared that as the chief executive of South Korea announced the absence of nuclear weapons in South Korea, the DPRK would sign the safeguards accord under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the premise that the United States, the owner of the nuclear arms, would make its stand clear in the future.

This is a step showing the magnanimity of the peace-loving DPRK. The United States must approach it positively and directly clarify whether nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from South Korea, or not.

AFP reported that U.S. President Bush in an interview with foreign newsmen on December 19 declined to confirm whether the U.S. nuclear weapons were withdrawn from South Korea "in accordance with the U.S. policy of neither confirming nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons" (NCND).

How can we believe the announcement of the chief executive of South Korea devoid of independence that U.S. nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from South Korea while the U.S. President refuses to confirm the withdrawal of nuclear weapons?

The socalled NCND policy of the United States is a product of the "era of the cold war."

Under this policy, the United States has concealed the existence of nuclear weapons in its aggressive bases overseas and justified the policy of nuclear blackmail.

But, the times have changed.

Why is the U.S. still resorting to its NCND policy, captive to the old way of thinking for a showdown of strength?"

This shows that the U.S. is not willing to renounce the policy of nuclear war and, on the other hand, it schemes to bring back the nuclear weapons any time, even if it withdraws them from South Korea today in face of the just demands of the Korean people and the world people.

The United States must know clearly that this policy can no longer work in the present era heading for peace, disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The United States must renounce its NCND policy.

Commentary Stresses Discussion on N-Arms Removal

SK2412022191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Nuclear Inspection Should Be Conducted Simultaneously"]

[Text] As was already reported, on 22 December, a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry released a statement in connection with the announcement of the South Korean person of authority that there is not a single nuclear weapon in South Korea, which was made public on 18 December concerning the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The spokesman stated that if it is true that U.S. nuclear weapons have been completely withdrawn from South Korea and that nuclear weapons no longer exist there, as the South Korean person of authority announced, Pyongyang welcomes this, because it would mean that our invariable legitimate demand has been met at last. The spokesman clarified that we will sign the safeguard accord under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and will go through the inspection according to relevant procedures. He also elucidated the essential issues in connection with this.

The spokesman's statement again demonstrates the legitimacy of the consistent policy stated by our party and the government of the Republic for the peaceful solution of the acute nuclear issue. This has opened a new bright prospect for ensuring peace in Asia and in the world.

As everyone knows, the issue of nuclear weapons has been raised acutely on the Korean peninsula because of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. This issue has become more grave recently, because the U.S. imperialists enforced a unilateral nuclear inspection while raving about our nonexistent nuclear development.

We have already maintained that we have neither the intention nor the ability to develop nuclear weapons and that the nuclear inspection, if it is to be conducted, should be simultaneously conducted not only of us, who have no nuclear weapons, but also of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

If the United States had not dragged the nuclear weapons into South Korea from the outset, the nuclear issue would not even have been raised, and if the United States had accepted our legitimate demand for withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea and for simultaneous inspection, the issue of nuclear weapons would have been smoothly resolved a long time ago.

After the United States declared that it would withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, the South Korean person of authority recently announced that there is not a single nuclear weapon in South Korea. If it is true that U.S. nuclear weapons have been completely withdrawn from South Korea and that nuclear weapons no longer exist in the land of South Korea, this would be a fruition of the persistent and patient efforts consistently made by our party and the government of the Republic and a great victory for our nation, which waged a resolute struggle for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea and the removal of the danger of nuclear war.

The United States has not made any official notification nor has it released an announcement up to now concerning the withdrawal of its nuclear weapons. However, since the announcement that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea was released, we will sign the nuclear safeguards accord and go through the nuclear inspection, on the premise that the United States will make its stand clear in the future.

This is a clear expression of our consistent peaceloving position and attitude to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations.

Since the announcement was released that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea and through our plan to sign the nuclear safeguards accord and to receive the inspection, the peaceful road for resolving the nuclear issue has been opened and the condition is mature for the North and the South to immediately and jointly adopt a declaration for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

However, after hearing only the words of the South Korean person of authority, who has no rights over the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, one cannot properly understand the presence or absence of nuclear weapons in South Korea. It is the United States which deployed the nuclear weapons in South Korea and which has the right to use and withdraw them. Therefore, in the event that we go through the inspection according to the nuclear safeguards accord, an inspection should be made simultaneously to verify and confirm the presence or absence of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, as we have already called for this and the South Korean side, too, has responded to it.

For this, negotiations between us and the United States, the master of nuclear weapons, should be realized to discuss relevant issues and the issue of removal of nuclear threat.

The United States should affirmatively respond to our just and fair proposal.

U.S. Seeks To Make Korean Peninsula 'Hot Spot'

SK2412104391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 24 Dec 91

["The U.S. Schemes To Turn Korean Peninsula Into New Hot Spot"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are now trying to maintain their huge military power and munitions industry by creating a crisis on

the Korean peninsula and turning it into a new hot spot, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The strained situation and the danger of a war created in Korea are entirely attributable to the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression, the article says, and continues:

While showing moves to ease the situation and reduce armed forces in other regions for the time being, waxing eloquent about the "termination of the cold war" and "advent of an era of peace", the U.S. imperialists are persistently seeking a showdown of strength only on the Korean peninsula. It is because the United States finds itself in the same position as at the time when it started the Korean war in 1950.

The United States is trying to stop the process of detente and disarmament and maintain its huge military power and war industry so as to save the economy from stagnation and attain a predominance of strength for world supremacy.

If the huge military power and war industry are to be maintained, it is necessary to steadily increase the government's military expenditures and, to this end, find a pretext to justify it.

This is why the U.S. imperialists have come out with the "regional crisis" doctrine.

They have defined the "regional crisis" as the biggest challenge to world stability and the U.S. interests and declared that to cope with it is the "U.S. state policy". They have set the Korean peninsula as its target with a hue and cry over the fictitious "threat of nuclear development" by the DPRK.

With this fiction they are scheming to use the "crisis" of the Korean peninsula as the pretext for maintaining huge military power and munitions industry, alleging that the DPRK has created a nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

It is not fortuitous that the U.S. authorities, with outcry over the "crisis" of the Korean peninsula, worked out a "120-day war scenario" to cope with it and are now going ahead with preparations for another war against the DPRK in all spheres.

The prevailing situation shows that the United States intends to unleash another war in Korea to bridge over its crisis.

If the U.S. imperialists ignite another war on the Korean peninsula against the DPRK, it will never be benefitial to them.

Economic Delegation Visits Syria, Meets President

SK2112042791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0410 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when he met a Korean Government economic delegation headed by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, on a visit to this country on December 18 stated that he would make energetic efforts to continue to develop the friendly and cooperative relations between Syria and Korea to a higher level.

Expressing deep impressions of his Korean visit, he wished the Korean people greater success in the struggle for accomplishing the cause of national reunification.

Signs Intergovernmental Agreement

SK2212083091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0805 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—An agreement on the establishment of an intergovernmental economic joint committee between the DPRK and Syria was signed in Damascus on December 18.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were the members of a Korean Government economic delegation headed by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, and the Korean ambassador to Syria and on the Syrian side were the members of a Syrian Government economic delegation led by Sabah Baqjaji, minister of planning.

The agreement was signed by the minister of external economic affairs of Korea and the minister of planning of Syria.

Tunisian Leader Praises Inter-Korean Agreement

SK2412060291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0411 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a congratulatory message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the adoption of the "agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South."

The Tunisian president extended warm felicitations to President Kim Il-song on the adoption of the agreement which signifies a new turning point for the future of the entire Korean people on the Korean peninsula.

He expressed the belief that this agreement would contribute to opening a new prospect of cooperation on the Korean peninsula, establishing peace and security in this region and realising the cherished desire of the Korean people.

Nepal's King Tells Envoy of N-S Accord Support

SK2112042991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0412 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—Nepalese King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev when he met the Korean ambassador to this country on December 17

warmly hailed the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" adopted at the fifth inter-Korean high- level talks. It would be conducive to removing the tension on the Korean peninsula and achieving reunification, he said. He sincerely hoped that the agreement would be thoroughly implemented to bring earlier the reunification of Korea.

Congress Leader Hails Agreement

SK2012043191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0404 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 20 (KCNA)—Ganesh Man Singh, supreme leader of the Nepali Congress, when he met with the Korean ambassador to Nepal on December 15, sincerely hailed "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" adopted at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks, saying it is a big stride toward the accomplishment of the cause of Korean reunification.

Noting that Korea should be reunified at an early date, he stressed that the Nepali Congress and he support the cause of Korean reunification.

CILRECO Statement on North-South Agreement

SK2412054691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0416 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (CILRECO) issued a statement on December 15 on the adoption of "agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South."

The statement noted with satisfaction that the agreement reconfirmed the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity which had been agreed upon by the North and the South in 1972 and recognized by the international community.

The two sides to the talks admitted that the North-South relations are not relations between states but assume a transitional character at present and agreed that they should make all efforts for the peaceful reunification of the country, the statement said, and added: This is a radical turn in North-South dialogues which had gone through turns and twists.

It highly estimated the fact that the North and the South reached agreement on the problem of nonaggression and on specific matters to remove the military confrontation on the Korean peninsula. It noted with satisfaction that the two sides reached a consensus of views on the issue of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula on the premise that the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea.

It earnestly called on all forces of the world supporting the Korean people's cause of reunification to actively work for a smooth implementation of the agreement adopted between the North and the South this time and invigorate the international solidarity movement for the reunification and peace of Korea.

Agricultural Union Statement on North-South Pact

SK2412055691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0432 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, issued a statement to the press in connection with the adoption of the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South of Korea, in which he called upon the people of broad sections in South Korea to turn out in the efforts to honestly implement the agreement.

All the provisions of the agreement are a precious fruition gained in the course of reunification by the entire Korean compatriots in the North and the South and overseas who have turned out to reunify the country in the 90s at any cost, he noted.

The authorities of the North and the South adopted the agreement which reaffirmed the three principles of national reunification laid down in the July 4 North-South joint statement and, on its basis, brought them into a concrete form. It is a practical and epoch-making step which opened a bright prospect of a solution to the problems of peace and reunification of the country, the chairman said.

The adoption of the agreement is a great achievement. What is important is to make it virtually conducive to national unity and reunification of the country, he said, stressing: The agreement must be carried into practice to meet the expectation of the entire fellow countrymen and the world's peaceloving people.

It is important in implementing it, he said, for the South side to change the anti-communist confrontation policy against us into the pro-communist reunification policy, discontinue anti-DPRK propaganda, abrogate the "National Security Law", a product of the time of confrontation, immediately set free the visitors to the North and pro-reunification patriots and provide all conditions and circumstances so that parties, groupings and people from all walks of life can freely take part in debate on reunification.

If the South Korean authorities signed the agreement really for national reconciliation, unity and reunification, they should abolish at once the "National Security Law", an anti-reunification, anti-national law, and immediately release the visitors to the North so as to show their will of national unity, he added.

Military Delegation Returns From Nigeria Visit

SK2312054491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0453 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—A DPRK military delegation led by O Chin-u, Presidium member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces, flew back home Sunday after paying a visit to Nigeria.

The delegation was met at the airport by Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, and officials concerned, and Chinese Ambassador Zheng Yi and the military attache of the Chinese Embassy here.

Nigerian Minister Sends Gift to Kim Il-song

SK2312055091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0501 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—General Sani Abacha, minister of defence and chief of staff of defence of Nigeria, on December 20 presented a gift to the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Sani Abacha handed the gift to O Chin-u, Presidium member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces, who was heading a Korean military delegation on a Nigeria visit.

Yon Hyong-muk Greets New Trinidadian Premier

SK2312052691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0454 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to Patrick Manning upon his assumption of office as prime minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries will develop more favourably in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, Yon wished the prime minister great success in his work for the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people.

New Envoy to Cameroon Presents Credentials

SK2212081891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0759 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—Cameroonian President Paul Biya, after receiving credentials from the newly-appointed DPRK ambassador to his country, said he wishes long life in good health and happiness to the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Cameroon has supported all along the cause of Korean reunification and hoped that the DPRK's efforts for reunification would bear fine fruits, the president said.

He declared that Cameroon would continue to develop relations with Korea.

Achievements in Winter Timber Production Viewed

SK2012052891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0426 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—The forestry stations under the Ministry of Forestry are registering notable achievements in winter timber production.

According to data available, timber output over the last one month or more is 25,000 cubic metres up on the same period last year, of which pit props showed an increase of 4,000 cubic metres.

The forestry stations and pit prop stations under the South Pyongan Provincial Forestry Administration which fulfilled its November plan by 106.4 percent have turned out hundreds of cubic metres of more timber this month than in the corresponding period last year.

The forestry stations under the South and North Hamgyong Provincial Forestry Administrations produced thousands of cubic metres of more timber each in recent 30 days than in the same period last year by extensively introducing an advanced method of felling.

Daily Lauds Agricultural Guidance System

SK2312095291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0012 GMT 19 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 19 December special article by Kim Nak-hui: "The New Agricultural Guidance System Is the Most Superior Guidance System Which Is in Conformity With the Intrinsic Demand of a Socialist Society"]

[Text] Thirty years have passed since the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song published his historical work, *On Organizing the County Agricultural Cooperative Management Committee.*

Currently all the people and agricultural workers of the entire nation are deeply bearing in mind the immortal achievement of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who created the new chuche-type agricultural guidance system and brought about momentous changes in the socialist rural construction and agricultural development.

From the early days, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song had deep insight in the importance and significance of the guidance and management work of agriculture to increase agricultural production and wholly develop the socialist rural economy. Thus, he published the historical work, *On Organizing the County Agricultural Cooperative Management Committee.*

Therefore, he completely elucidated the agricultural guidance system under socialism.

In this work, the respected and beloved leader rectified the need to organize the county agricultural cooperative management committee. He outlined the duty of its organ and sections and the work style and work method of the functionaries in the rural economy. He established a new agricultural guidance system, enhancing its guidance level and vigorously pushing ahead with the agricultural and technical revolution. He also wholly elucidated all important guidelines in highly manifesting its might. Therefore, 30 years ago, the most revolutionary and scientific chuche-type agricultural guidance system was provided in our country.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: To improve the guidance and management of the rural economy to suit the developing reality and direct the socialist rural economy by the industrial method of management, we should organize a county agricultural cooperative management committee.

The new agricultural guidance system based on the county cooperative management committee is the most revolutionary, superior, and unique agricultural guidance system of our own style which embodies the great chuche idea.

Due to the creation of the new agricultural guidance system, the issue of guidance and management in the rural economy was brilliantly resolved, agricultural productivity was developed rapidly, and a strong and mighty weapon was provided to vigorously push ahead with the socialist rural construction under socialism.

The new agricultural guidance system created by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is, most of all, the most revolutionary guidance system which makes it possible, under socialism, to firmly realize the party's and state's unified guidance in the rural economy.

To realize the party's and state's unified guidance in the rural economy of a socialist society is a principle demand in consolidating and developing it. A socialist society is one embodying the working class' intrinsic demand, and a socialist economy is a planned economy.

The party's and state's unified guidance of the rural economy must be firmly realized so that all enterprises and agricultural production units throughout the nation that are serving in the rural economy can be developed harmoniously and in a balanced way. Also, the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—can be wholly carried out in the rural areas.

The new agricultural guidance system created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song makes it possible to most thoroughly realize the party-type leadership and state guidance in the guidance and management of the rural economy.

The organs of agricultural guidance at all levels which form the new agricultural guidance system organize and execute all work under the collective guidance of the related party committee. They thoroughly realize the party's policy-oriented demand in agricultural production and rural construction as their basic duty.

Furthermore, the new agriculture guidance system makes it possible to magnificently embody the principle of a unified and democratic central system in agricultural production and rural construction. This can be implemented when the party's and state's agricultural policy reaches the lower echelons, extending from the center to the province and county and to the work teams and subworkteams of the cooperatives, and works to concentrate the practical opinions and initiative at the appointed time from the lower echelons to the upper organs through an orderly system.

The new agricultural guidance system provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is also the most scientific and superior system which makes it possible to guide the socialist rural economy in an industrial method. Guiding the socialist rural economy in an industrial method is an inevitable demand in the guidance and management of the rural economy, and the most correct road in abolishing the difference between industry and agriculture in economic management.

If the industrial method to directly adhere to, organize, and specifically guide all industrial activities starting from planning to production, technical development, supplying materials, arranging and organizing labor, and financial activities of enterprises, is not embodied, the level of agricultural management and operation cannot be enhanced; agricultural production cannot in increased endlessly; and the superiority of the socialist rural economic system which is highly organized cannot be highly manifested.

The basis in carrying out guidance in an industrial method is the technical guidance for production. In our unique agricultural guidance system of our own style extending from the center, to the province, county, cooperatives, and work teams, an orderly production and technical guidance system to technically guide agricultural production is established.

Due to the establishment of the production and technical guidance system of the county cooperative management committee, which includes the planning system centered on the chief engineer, the chief engineer of each cooperative, and the technical guiding personnel of each work team, it was possible to substantially carry out scientific and technical guidance of the overall agricultural production within the county; lift agricultural technology onto a modern scientific and technical basis; and firmly guarantee to do farm work in accordance with the scientific and technical principle was provided. Also, a scientific road was opened in achieving a great turning

point in the work for planning the rural economy, calculating management activities, and further organizing them.

The new agricultural guidance system based on the county cooperative management committee is a very superior system from the fact that it is possible to accelerate the ideological, technological, and cultural revolution in the rural area, combine the all-people's property and the cooperative one organically, and steadily strengthen the production relation between industry and agriculture.

Important tasks that are put forth in brilliantly resolving the socialist agricultural issues such as rapidly enhancing the farmer's ideological consciousness level and cultural and technical level by developing the educational, cultural, and health work in the rural areas, can be successfully resolved when the might of the new agricultural guidance system is wholly manifested.

The new agricultural guidance system created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is truly a mighty and practical weapon which must be firmly adhered to in scientifically guiding and vigorously pushing ahead with rural construction and agricultural production after the establishment of the socialist system. It is also the most vital and superior guiding system which makes it possible to adhere to the working class principle in whatever environment and wholly manifest the superiority of the socialist agricultural management system.

The justness, superiority, and vitality of the new agricultural guidance system was already confirmed through revolutionary practice. During the past 30 years from the establishment of the new agricultural guidance system based on the county cooperative management committee up till now, truly brilliant victories and results were achieved in the development of our country's rural economy.

Due to the might of our party's accurate agricultural policy and new agricultural guidance system, it was possible for our nation's rural economy to overcome all kinds of backwardness of the past left by the exploiting society and change into a modern rural economy which is politically and economically consolidated and developed. It was also changed into an independent and vigorous rural economy which can smoothly supply the necessary agricultural products in the nation's overall development of the people's economy and the people's dietary life without the slightest wavering in whatever weather changes.

From a long time ago our nation completed the irrigation work and electricity work and at this time our nation is wholly promoting to achieve the overall mechanization and chemicalization. Therefore, the nation's agricultural production is being increased ceaselessly, and our farmers who were worried about what to eat and wear during the past when they were living in rickety huts, are now enjoying to their hearts content an abundant and civilized life without any worries, living in modern houses equipped with modern home appliances.

Due to the war triggered by the U.S. imperialists everything was ruined and not even one farming tool was in good condition. Under this difficult condition our nation's rural economy pioneered its road for development, thus changing into a developed, comprehensive, independent, and modern rural area as it is today. This is truly a magnificent miracle which cannot be thought about without our party's accurate agricultural policy and the might of the superior agricultural guidance system.

The new agricultural guidance system created by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song brought about momentous changes in the development of the rural economy in our province.

In the past the output of food grain crops in our province was low but a firm basis has been provided today to achieve a production goal of high food grain crops output. The amount of food grain crops produced in Sukchon County and Mundok County before liberation are now being produced by one farm.

Also, since the establishment of the new agricultural guidance system, the guidance by the party and state regarding the rural economic sector was strengthened and a more active and closer link was achieved with the industrial sector. Therefore, in the cooperatives of our province the material and technical basis was enhanced to a high level which is beyond comparison and the irrigation work and building of houses in farms were promoted on a large scale.

As in the case of all other provinces of the nation, our province was changed into a magnificent socialist rural area possessing many modern farming machines and reservoirs; fully equipped power facilities; a complete network of waterways; comfortable modern houses that do not make our province envious of houses in the urban areas; and modern welfare facilities.

Tongnim-ri and Yongnim-ri of Mundok County and Changdong-ri of Sukchon County which were changed into ideal communist districts, showing to how high a level our nation's rural economy is developing.

The most superior agricultural guidance system was founded in our nation and was magnificently embodied to achieve brilliant victories and results as today. This is wholly due to the fact that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is being highly upheld at the forefront of the revolution and is advancing towards the guidance [hyangdo] of the glorious party.

Stressing that for the people the food problem is most important to their lives, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has been always interested in agriculture and is devoting his all to promoting the rural economy. The distance that the great leader has traveled for on-the-spot guidance to many cooperatives

throughout the country—ranging from cooperative farms in Muntok County and Yongchon County in the west coast area to cooperative farms in Kumya County and Anbyon County in the east coast area, cooperative farms in Onsong County and Sonbong County of the northern district, and cooperative farms in Kaesong city near the Military Demarcation Line—to provide our people with a more affluent life is too long. Tens of thousands of books are insufficient to record all of the legends about the great leader's meeting with functionaries of the agricultural sector and farmers, meticulously teaching them, and warmly encouraging them.

Despite his busy days of leading all sectors of the revolution and construction, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il- song visited our South Pyongan Province several hundred times and extensively elucidated the tasks that functionaries and agricultural working people in our province should fulfill. Because of the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader who, as the commander of the agricultural front, has led agricultural production and rural construction to constant upsurges, in recent years alone the construction project of the several hundred-ri long Onchon waterway of the Sohae lockgate and numerous irrigation reservoirs have been completed in our province. As a result, a firm irrigation system has been established, and, by waging the soil reclamation battle, a firm foundation for increasing grain production has been provided.

Therefore, whenever they think of today's reality in the socialist rural areas, which are becoming more prosperous with each passing day, and their affluent lives, our people and all of the agricultural working people cannot repress their gratitude to the respected and beloved leader who is devoting his whole life to promoting the people's living.

Upholding the great leader's intent, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led the entire party and all of the people to thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy and has taken many steps to improve and strengthen the work of the Agricultural Committee, the provincial rural economic committees, and the county cooperative farm management committees.

Our party has extensively set forth correct policies to increase agricultural production and to develop the socialist rural economy, icluding the policy on vigorously waging the movement to win the flag of the three revolutions and other mass movements in the rural area; the policy on strengthening party work in rural areas and on substantially carrying out the rural theses summation work; the policy rice transplanting, weeding, and harvesting work in a timely manner; and the policy on supplying sufficient machinery, technology, and farming materials to rural villages.

The prospects for our agricultural development are very bright, and its goal is clear. When functionaries and the working people in our agricultural sector thoroughly implement the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's farsighted rural construction plan with the great dignity and pride of carrying out the revolution under the most revolutionary and scientific agricultural guidance system, upholding the leadership of the great party and leader, our country's socialist rural economy will be developed to a higher stage, and the superiority of popular masses-centered socialism of our own style will be fully demonstrated.

KCNA Reviews 24 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK2412060191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the Guinean ambassador to Korea.

Foreign news media conveyed news that Preaident Kim Il-song met the North side's delegation which had participated in the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper gives an account of a seminar in Ghana on "Our Socialism Centered on the Masses Shall Not Perish," a work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Papers inform the readers that the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] publishing house recently brought out "History of the Workers' Party of Korea," an encyclopedia consummating the course of victory and glory covered by the WPK, a new-type revolutionary party of the working class, the imperishable feats performed by it in accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche and its rich experience in the course of the revolutionary struggle.

On the occasion of the 74th birth anniversary of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter and a heroine of the anti-Japanese struggle, papers carry articles on her brilliant life and undying exploits dedicated to the revolutioanry caus- of chuche.

The Ugandan president met the Korean ambassador to his country and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Greek Communist Party met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, says NODONG SINMUN.

Korean lifters proved successful in the 23rd Asia weightlifting championships, according to papers.

Echoed in papers are voices at home and abroad supporting and hailing the adoption of the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN, citing concrete materials, deals with the unprecedented fascist suppression of the patriotic pro-reunification democratic forces in South Korea this year.

Papers report that the head of the Japanese women's delegation who had participated in the second seminar on "Peace in Asia and the Role of Women" called for the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and Japan and world public condemned the U.S. claim of unilateral "nuclear inspection" of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

A U.S. lawyer held that Bush must be indicted as a war criminal, says the press.

International news columns of the press include reports about the Kenyan president's call for self-reliance of the African countries, the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel and the deadlocked Middle East peace conference.

Papers come out with articles denouncing the nuclear war moves committed by the U.S. imperialists with outcries over the North's "development of nuclear weapons."

South Korea

No Opposes Direct U.S.-DPRK Negotiations

SK2312083191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u told a visiting U.S. congressman Monday that the United States should never directly negotiate with North Korea on the communist nation's development of an atomic bomb.

South Korea and the United States should make an all-out effort to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, national security adviser Kim Chong-hui quoted No as telling Rep. Stephen Solarz (D- N.Y.).

Solarz, chairman of the House subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs, visited Pyongyang Dec. 17-19 and arrived in Seoul Saturday night.

No said the two allies should consult closely in the process of Pyongyang-Washington dialogue, and during discussion at the International Atomic Energy Agency on North Korea's nuclear development program, Kim told reporters after the meeting.

No told Solarz that the issue of Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons was as important as the Dec. 13 agreement on inter-Korean reconciliation and economic cooperation, so the government would deal with the two matters in parallel.

Solarz told No he got the impression in his talks with North Korean President Kim Il-song that Pyongyang would not readily abandon its development of nuclear weapons, and that it would set new conditions at each stage of signing, ratifying and implementing a nuclear safeguards accord, Kim said.

The congressman promised to submit a resolution to the House of Representatives as soon as he returned, calling on the North to scrap its effort to obtain nuclear weapons, Kim said.

Seoul To Take Tougher Stand on Nuclear Issue

SK2312114291 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 23 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 22 December that the government will intensify pressure on North Korea to abandon its development of nuclear weapons by taking advantage of "the contact between the delegates of the South and North for the discussion of nuclear issues" scheduled for 26 December at Panmunjom. This decision was made after Stephen Solarz, chairman of the subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives, briefed our government on the result of his visit to Pyongyang. He said that despite President No Tae-u's declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons in the ROK, which was aimed at providing the North with an excuse to abandon its nuclear development project, North Korea has failed to show any sign of changes in its nuclear policy.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok held on the morning of 23 December at the Choson Hotel, Chairman Solarz said, according to Pan Ki-mun, director of the North American Department at the Foreign Ministry, who was present in the meeting, that "during my visit to Pyongyang 17-19 December, I met with President Kim Il-song, Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, and Director of the Institute for the Study of Peace and Disarmament Song Ho-kyong. The North Korean leaders have reiterated their earlier stand that only when the United States confirmed the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the ROK will North Korea sign the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]."

Chairman Solarz said that although he had personally assured the North Korean leaders, including President Kim, that the U.S. nuclear weapons had all been withdrawn, the North Korean side insisted that such high-ranking U.S. Government officials as President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, or Secretary of Defense Cheney confirm it, revealing their strong desire to improve relations with the United States.

The government is reported to be mulling over the possibility of conveying to the North side its clear stand at the contact between the delegates of the South and North scheduled for 26 December at Panmunjom, that unless it takes affirmative steps to abandon its nuclear development project, the government may have to postpone putting the South-North agreement in force and

then translate it into pressure on North Korea by floating it in the international community to see how world opinion reacts to it.

The government is also reported to have decided to discuss specific joint measures to keep North Korea from continuing its nuclear development at ROK-U.S. and ROK-Japan summit meetings slated respectively for 5 January and 16 January next year in Seoul, while calling on North Korea to stop it.

In his talks with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, Chairman Solarz said that he had strongly urged North Korea to stop developing its own nuclear weapons by saying that better relations between the United States and North Korea can be realized if and when the latter abandons its development of nuclear weapons, but nothing of the sort can be accomplished if North Korea refuses this U.S. demand.

Chairman Solarz also said: The North Korean side was negative to the ROK proposal for a simultaneous pilot inspection in the South and North and insisted that the North side inspect the U.S. military bases in the South in exchange for agreeing to an IAEA inspection of the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon. The North Korean side also insisted on holding direct negotiations with the United States for the settlement of the Korean peninsula issues, including replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

Meanwhile, Chairman Solarz had a breakfast meeting with Kim Chong-hui, presidential adviser on diplomatic and security affairs, to discuss ways to keep North Korea from continuing its nuclear development, following his meeting with Foreign Minister Yi. In the afternoon, Chairman Solarz discussed the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula with Kim Tae-chung, co-chairman of the Democratic Party; Yi Tong-pok, special adviser to prime minister; and Kim Kyong-won, former ROK ambassador to the United States.

Chairman Solarz is expected to leave for home on 23 December after paying a courtesy call on President No at Chongwadae.

'Soviet' Official on DPRK N. Weapons Program

SK2412064391 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 Dec 91 p 2

[YONHAP from Moscow]

[Excerpt] A North Korean expert at the Soviet [as published] Foreign Ministry said on 24 December that it appears that North Korea, which has been accelerating nuclear development, will start producing plutonium for military purposes in 1992, test nuclear materials by the end of 1994, and manufacture devices to deliver nuclear weapons in 1995.

Valeriy Ermolov, a counselor in charge of North Korean affairs, said that North Korea is modernizing its Scud missiles and that this modernization program will increase the missile's range to 1,000 km. He also said that if North Korea is not stopped from continuing this dangerous program now, a balance of strategic power in this region will be upset significantly, that the situation on the Korean peninsula will be aggravated, and that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will be dissolved. [passage omitted]

North 'Likely' To Sign Nuclear Accord in Vienna

SK2412064991 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 Dec 91 p 1

[By correspondent Choe Maeng-ho from Vienna]

[Text] It has been learned that North Korea is likely to sign the nuclear safeguards accord in Vienna.

On 23 December, an official concerned at the North Korean Embassy in Vienna revealed that the signing [of the accord] is a matter to be dealt with at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and that, therefore, it will be done on the spot. However, he said that he has received from his home country no information on when the signing should be made.

In this connection, Hans Meier, an IAEA spokesman, said that it is doubtful that an IAEA delegation will visit Pyongyang and that, accordingly, the accord is likely to be signed in Vienna.

Government To Halt Team Spirit if Accord Signed

SK2412085691 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] If North Korea signs the nuclear safeguards accord by next January and clearly reveals its intention to accept a nuclear inspection, the government has decided to stop next year's Team Spirit exercise.

This afternoon the government held a meeting of ministers associated with foreign and security affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik. The meeting was attended by Choe Ho-chung, vice prime minister and minister of the Unification Board; the foreign minister; and the defense minister.

The government will deliver our position to the North at the nuclear negotiations to be held in Panmunjom on 26 December and will urge North Korea to adopt a positive attitude toward accepting simultaneous inspection of the North and the South.

The government will make clear its objection to direct North Korean-U.S. negotiations, upon which North Korea is insisting, because the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula should be resolved by the North and the South, according to the principle of settlement between the parties concerned.

In addition, in order to accept a North-South joint statement on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at the Sixth North-South high-level talks to be held next February, the government has decided to be flexible about the title of the joint statement.

No Tae-u Thanks U.S. Forces in 24 Dec Message

SK2412071191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u thanked the U.S. forces in Korea in a Christmas message Tuesday for helping peace, freedom and democracy prevail in his country.

"Until North Korea changes and no longer poses any threats to our democratic societies, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea, indeed, the entire Korean people, will remain firmly united with you in common efforts to build a durable structure of peace on this peninsula," No said in the message.

"Although North Korea's attempt to develop nuclear weapons is a source of grave concern for us all, I believe that we shall prevail in the end on this issue," the president said.

The nature of the North Korean regime and its track record meant the Korean and U.S. forces had to stay on guard against surprises, he said.

Vigilance by all personnel in uniform, Korean and American, was essential and indispensable, particularly during the holiday season and throughout 1992, when elections are due in the United States and Korea, he said.

Official Criticizes U.S. on Farm Imports Ban

SK2412005491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] While pressuring other countries to open their farm markets fully at the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, the United States itself has not clarified its position on its strict import ban on 12 foreign farm products.

The Washington government has banned imports of 12 farm products including sugar, peanuts and raw cotton for the past 36 years, based on Article 25 of the GATT.

In particular, 64 senators, including Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia, late last month sent President George Bush a letter calling for retention of the current U.S. import ban system at the multilateral Uruguay Round negotiations.

An official of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said yesterday that it is quite contrary to the demand for full opening of farm markets insisted on by the U.S. government at the Geneva talks.

The Bush administration has put strong pressure on Korea and Japan to open their rice markets as if the rice issue is one of major obstacles to the successful conclusion of the five-year-old Uruguay Round talks. It is initiated by the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) headquartered in Geneva.

The United States has introduced a "waiver" clause in its related farm law stipulating the import ban on farm products under the pretext of protecting their farmers.

The clause refers to the GATT's Article 25 which rules that any country is entitled to take import restriction measures if two thirds of GATT members consent to the demand.

When the GATT was formulated in 1955, the United States got an approval from 24 out of 35 members that it could use the "waiver" right on 14 farm products. Now, the number of items have decreased to 12 items.

A farm expert said the recent letter of 64 U.S. senators is quite contradictory to the "tariffication without exception" on all farm trade, which is translated into the full opening of farm markets, insisted by the U.S. government.

A ministry official also said U.S. corn growers have lodged a similar petition with President Bush. In the petition, they called on Bush to continue to allow subsidies on their production to sharpen their competitiveness on the international market.

He said the Bush administration will hardly give up the waiver clause as the presidential election is scheduled for November next year.

Canadian Firm To Design Nuclear Power Stations

SK2312024791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 23 (YONHAP)—Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) has picked Atomic Energy Canada Ltd. (AECL) to design the Wolsung three and four nuclear power stations and to supply the reactor facilities, a KEPCO official said Monday.

Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd. (KHIC) was chosen to provide turbo-generators for the reactors, he said.

The Wolsung units, to be built near Kyongju in North Kyongsang Province, are scheduled for completion in June 1998 and June 1999 and will each have a capacity of 700,000 kilowatts.

Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute and KHIC will take part in building the reactors and Korea Power Engineering Co. will join the design project, both as subcontractors of AECL.

Russian Official: DPRK Ties Need To Change

SK2412015291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0119 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—Dissolution of the Soviet Union will inevitably lead to a review of the 1961 Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance signed between Pyongyang and Moscow, a Russian (formerly Soviet) Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

The state that had faithfully fulfilled its responsibilities under the time-honored treaty no longer existed, Valeriy Ermolov, a counselor in charge of North Korean Affairs, told YONHAP NEWS AGENCY.

The new Commonwealth of Independent States that has replaced the Soviet Union would resolutely sever the shackles of past ideology, he said, maintaining that Pyongyang-Moscow ties would look extremely ridiculous in the eyes of the world for all the pledge that all international treaties and agreements signed by the Soviet Union with other countries and international organizations would be honored by the Commonwealth.

The Russian official said, however, that review of the pact should not mean the virtual collapse of their relationship "for such a development would only destroy the strategic security system on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia."

Similar treaties the Soviet Union had with Eastern European countries had already been scrapped in the wake of the political changes and the one between Moscow and Pyongyang was an added burden on the Commonwealth leadership, Ermolov said.

"I don't think the treaty will live long," he said, calling on North Korea to awaken from such illusions as "proletarian internationalism" and "international obligation."

The Commonwealth should make its stance on its ties with Pyongyang clear in a way Seoul and Washington can trust, he said.

Article 1 of the treaty deserved revision or elimination as it stipulates automatic military assistance in time of war between the Soviet Union and another country, or between North Korea and any other nation.

"As long as the article remains intact, the Soviet Union or the Commonwealth may always be committed to military clashes on the Korean peninsula," the official said.

The existence of the pact would be unhelpful to confidence building between either South Korea and the Commonwealth of independent states, or to Washington-Commonwealth ties, he said.

In the current circumstances, when a good neighborly cooperative pact is imminent between Seoul and the Commonwealth, it was imperative to let Pyongyang understand clearly that there would be no automatic application of Article 1, he said.

Endorsing Tied-Loan Experts to Moscow Resumes

SK2412065391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—The Export-Import Bank of Korea has resumed approval of tied-loan exports to what was until last week the Soviet Union, but only to the eight republics that confirmed over the weekend that they will pay their debts.

The bank Monday guaranteed payment for 298,000 U.S. dollars of Soviet-bound goods to be paid for with tied loans, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Tuesday.

Changes in the Soviet Union stopped the bank from approving tied-loan exports three weeks ago.

The ministry said the tied-loan shipments, which hit 204 million dollars as of Monday, would reach at least 280 million dollars by the end of December.

South Korea promised the former Soviet Union cash loans of 1 billion dollars and tied loans of 800 million dollars this year.

Church Organization To Send Rice to North

SK2212115191 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 22 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] The headquarters (President Reverend Han Kyong-chik) to share the "rice of love" attached to the HANGUK ILBO Company and the Korean National Council of Churches [KNCC] has collected rice to send to the North Korean People. A road is open to realize this.

The headquarter's executive committee (Chairman Presbyter Yi Han-pin) on 21 December held a regular prayer meeting at the Namsan Methodist Church in Seoul and informed North Korea of its intention to send rice again according to the adoption of the North-South agreement. Thereby, the committee said that North Korea had positively shown its position.

According to the headquarters, Presbyter Yu Sang-yol (63 years, president of the Chonji Trade Company), who is a member of the executive committee of the headquarters and chairman of the Christian Council for the Promotion of North-South Exchanges, met Korean-American Pak Kyong-yun (56 years, female), who is representative of the North side and president of the Korea Kumgangsan International Trade Development Company on 19 December in Tokyo, Japan, and agreed to begin sending rice to North Korea. Accordingly, they prepared a memorandum of understanding and exchanged it.

According to humanitarian and evangelical principles as dicussed by the delegates of both sides in Hong Kong on

29 June 1990, both sides agreed to send rice unconditionally to the North Korean people. In addition, they agreed to name the headquarters as the sender; the Korean Christian Federation as the recipient; and the Kumgangsan Trade Company and the Christian Council for the Promotion of North-South exchanges as the brokers.

Both sides agreed that our own ship carrying rice can call directly in Nampo port, and that all related people will meet in Beijing, China, before or after the new year to sign an official agreement on this. They also agreed to send rice to North Korea as soon as possible.

According to this, the headquarters plans to apply to the government for permission to meet the North Korean residents when executive committee Chairman Yi Han-pin returns home from his visit to the Sudan on 23 December. Thereby, after the working-level contact in Beijing, the headquarters plans to send 2,000 tons of rice in the first shipment to North Korea by 4 Febuary, which is the lunar new year.

On 14 December, the headquarters issued a statement that it will positively conduct the campaign for sending the "rice of love" to North Korea according to the spirit of the North-South exchanges and cooperation specified in the agreement reached between the North and South at their high-level talks.

The headquarters sent 800 tons of rice to North Korea in July 1990 through the Kumgangsan Trade company in Hong Kong. However, additional shipments were suspended because of hasty reports by foreign and domestic papers.

In his breakfast meeting on 21 December, Presbyter Yu, who is in charge of negotiations, said: The shipment of rice to North Korea will significantly contribute to promoting relations between the North and South. We are in charge of press reports as well.

Trade Minister To Concentrate on Reducing Deficit

SK2312020091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] The new Trade-Industry Minister Han Pong-su said yesterday that he will concentrate efforts on reducing trade deficits.

He said, "There will be no drastic change in the present economic and trade policy."

But emphasized that his ministry will promptly take steps to wisely cope with changing economic and trade conditions both at home and abroad.

In a meeting with reporters shortly before his inauguration as the new trade-industry minister, Han said that the reduction of trade shortfalls can not be realized without enhancing the international competitiveness of the manufacturing industry.

A native of Kunpo, Kyonggi-to, he maintained, "Exports will naturally expand when the quality of products is improved through the development of high tech."

He promised that the ministry will carry out a wide range of steps to help business concerns develop new technologies so that they will strengthen their international competitiveness.

He also said that he will increase efforts on solving manpower shortages in the manufacturing industry and expanding its securement of financing.

A graduate of the law college of Seoul National University in 1956, Han, 64, is a career economic technocrat who has assumed key posts including the chairmanship of the Economic Planning Board's Fair Trade Commission and the presidency of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation.

He has a good command of English and is well-versed in international affairs as he completed postgraduate studies at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in New York.

Han said, "I will do my best to narrow trade deficits by providing full support to the manufacturing industry in order to help it manufacture "sellable" products on the international market."

In particular, he stressed that he will endeavor to curb the trade loss for next year below the $10 billion level under any circumstances. This year, the trade shortfall is estimated at $9.8 billion-9.9 billion.

Meanwhile, the trade-industry minister said that the growing regionalism of the world economy will further block the nation's exports.

To survive the mounting economic regionalism, he stressed that he will focus efforts on maintaining amicable relations with the United States, the 12-member European Community, Japan and other advanced countries.

Voicing fear over the nation's expanding trade deficits with Japan due to growing imports of Japanese machinery, he called upon business concerns to join efforts to localize machines.

He also asked enterprises to enhance their productivity based on sound and harmonious labor-management relations in order to facilitate their exports.

Construction Minister To Work To End Speculation

SK2312023091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] Construction Minister So Yong-taek said yesterday that he would endeavor to eradicate real estate speculation and ensure balanced development of the national land.

Meeting the press after his inaugural ceremony, he said real estate speculation had been the deep-rooted cause of all social evils in Korea.

"Currently, there are a set of anti-speculation measures including legislation for the public concept of land ownership. My task is to translate the measures into action properly," said Minister So, who moved from the Office of National Tax Administration (ONTA).

"I am willing to draw up other antispeculation systems if necessary," he said, adding that the time is over for land speculators aiming at quick bucks through speculative land dealings.

Minister So began his career in 1966 as a director of a provincial tax office and has spent most of his career in the Finance Ministry and ONTA.

"While corporate land speculation will be stemmed sternly, I am also determined to help private compaines' production activities by easing administrative restrictions and supplying enough industrial land," he said.

He said his ministry will implement the third National Land Development Plan without a hitch over the coming 10 years.

"Our policy priority will also be placed on accommodating dwelling places for many people who don't have their own homes," he emphasized.

Minister So predicted that real estate prices would continue to fall at least for years.

New Minister Puts Priority on N-S Olympic Team

SK2312021391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Dec 91 p 12

[Text] Newly-appointed Sports-Youth Minister Yi Chin-sam said yesterday, "I feel a strong sense of responsibility upon being appointed as a cabinet minister. I will do my best to fully perform my duty as a minister."

He made the remarks while meeting with reporters at his office in the ministry on the heel of the inauguration ceremony.

"The first task I would pursue as the sports-youth minister is to seek the formation of a South-North single team for the coming Barcelona Olympics," Yi said.

But, he continued, the athletes in the nation are also required to be fully prepared for the case of participating in the coming Olympics separately from the North.

"Though I don't know much about sports administration, I am going to render total support for the autonomous activities of the Korea Amateur Sports Association and other sports organizations," he promised.

He said that nation's sports activities will be promoted in such a way as to increasing the number of sports players. That would be helpful not only for finding promising athletes but also for promoting sports for all he opined.

"Sports is the only way to have the people get a stronger sense of keeping order and desirable life patterns," he went on to say.

The former army-chief-of-staff viewed the matters regarding youth as one of the most important national tasks, saying that it is a matter on which the nations' future depends.

He also called on the officials of his ministry to make an utmost effort to be experts next to none in the fields they are charged with.

He also emphasized the democratic way in carrying out the various affairs of his ministry. "I will make a final decision on a curtain matter only after pooling the various wisdom of the concerned officials and experts," said the retired four-star general.

Hyundai Founder Plans To Participate in Politics

SK2412015391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman and founder of Hyundai Business Group, is making a strong push for a creation of a political party.

Making up his mind to actively participate in politics, Chong is seeking various means of realizing his determination, including the establishment of a new political party, a senior Hyundai official said yesterday.

In line with this, Chong has already launched a working-level task force, which comprises Kim Chong-kyu, former president of Yonhap News Agency, and four former journalists and diplomats, he said on condition of anonymity.

Refuses To Confirm Party Rumors

SK2412061691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0530 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—Hyundai group owner Chong Chu-yong, saying he hadn't made up his mind yet, refused Tuesday to confirm or deny reports that he is creating a political party.

"I didn't decide whether I will initiate a new party, or if I will help politicians enter the national assembly from behind the scenes," the embattled industrialist told reporters.

"I will start after the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition democratic party finish their candidate nomination process if I do politics-related things," Chong said.

A Hyundai source said Chong meant he would support people who were rejected by the major parties.

His recent transferral of 12 million shares valued at 134.1 billion won to his employees was done to prepare the financing for setting up a party, the source said.

Meanwhile, Chong's right-hand man, Yi Myong-pak, chairman of Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co., has said he will leave Hyundai to enter politics.

Yi told Chong recently he wanted to run for the National Assembly as an independent in Kangnam B district here, a source close to Yi said.

Yi joined Hyundai in 1965, right after graduating from Korea University, and moved rapidly to the top position in 11 years.

Burma

SLORC Government in 'No Political Impasse'

BK2112114891 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races [WCDBRNR], accompanied by members Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, Naval chief of staff; Major General Thein Win, Air Force chief of staff; Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of Signals; Brigadier General Thaung Myint, director of Garrison Engineers; Police Major General San Thein, director general of People's Police Force; U Kyaw Aye, director general of the SLORC office; responsible officials from the offices of the SLORC chairman and the WCDBRNR; directors general and managing directors from departments and enterprises; and other responsible personnel left Yangon [Rangoon] by military aircraft at 1300 on 18 December and arrived at Shan State's Heho Airport at 1420. The secretary-1 and his entourage accompanied by Major General Maung Aye, chairman of Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council [LORC] and commander of the Eastern Military Command, then proceeded to Lashio arriving at 1530. [passage omitted]

A coordination meeting on the development of the border region and national races was held at Shweli Hall of the Northeastern Military Command at 0810 on 19 December. The meeting was attended by Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; Maj. Gen. Maung Aye, chairman of Shan State LORC and eastern command commander; Major General Maung Thint, deputy chairman of Shan State LORC and northeastern command commander; department heads and responsible personnel. At the meeting matters relating to road construction, civil projects, education, health, electricity, water, drug suppression activities, crop substitution for poppy growers, livestock breeding, and the propagation of faith in the Kokang and Wa regions were explained by tactical command commander Colonel Tin Hlaing. Lieutenant Colonel Thet Win, general staff officer grade-1, next explained development activities undertaken in the Kokang, Kachin, Shan, and Palaung regions with the aid of graphs and charts. Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, Maj. Gen. Maung Aye, and Maj. Gen. Maung Thint gave necessary instructions.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of SLORC and chairman of the WCDBRNR, cordially met with leaders from the Kokang, Wa, Shan and Ah Kha regions, Shan leaders from the Sin Kyawt region, Kachin leaders from the Pa Wa and Kaung Kha regions, Pa-O leaders, Palaung leaders from the Mong Tung region, and held a coordination meeting on developments in the border regions and national races and drug suppression activities in the Operations Hall of the Northeastern Military Command at 0930 on 19 December.

At the meeting, the major general expressed his pleasure at meeting with the leaders of the national races on behalf of the SLORC chairman and noted that he and his party came to give necessary assistance and to coordinate with solving their problems. [passage omitted] He also took the opportunity to explain the prevailing political situation in the country. He said political, economic, and administrative matters in Myanmar [Burma] were being transformed in accordance with the law. The multiparty democratic general elections, considered as a political change, had been successfully held.

He next said that a national convention that includes all the national groups is due to be held for the emergence of a strong constitution and that the election commission has been performing its tasks in accordance with its schedules and plans. He then explained that once the election commission submits its final report after completing its duties, the SLORC Government will then hold a coordination meeting for the holding of a national convention after meeting with personnel concerned. He then added that the national convention will plan the drafting of a strong constitution with the participation of the country's populace including the national races of the border regions. He also urged the participation and coordination of all concerned to achieve the objective. Next he remarked that peace and tranquility and the rule of law is important in drafting a strong constitution and said disturbances and unrest are hampering the calling of the national convention.

At this stage, Khin Nyunt explained that just as some foreign superpower countries that want the person or organization of their choice to gain state power had been interfering in internal affairs with the intent of creating unrest by pointing to democracy, human rights, and narcotic drugs, some unscrupulous persons and those who think highly of foreign countries had been creating disturbances. He said that recently, on account of a small group of unscrupulous persons, universities and colleges had to be closed. The universities and colleges were temporarily closed at the request of responsible teachers who fear that widespread unrest might be instigated by outside influences. He recalled it as a great loss for students who wanted to pursue their studies in a peaceful manner, as well as for their parents and the nation. [passage omitted]

Continuing, Khin Nyunt said that at present under Sino-Burmese agreements highways will be constructed, bilateral trade will improve, and added that more can be done for regional development with the building of these highways. He then urged the people from the national races to cooperate since the government is sincerely making every effort for their regional development. [passage omitted]

In his closing speech, Khin Nyunt explained that there had been cordial discussions with leaders of the national races and responsible departmental officials. [passage omitted] He said the SLORC government is in no political impasse and will proceed in accordance with

Declaration No. 1/90. He urged the political parties to follow accordingly. Continuing, he warned that legal action will be taken against any opposing political organization if they are in opposition to the SLORC. He then remarked that the SLORC not only has no political impasse it also has no problem within the military. He then added that the Armed Forces will totally crush any insurgent organization and said that was the reason why there were no difficulties on armed insurgency. [passage omitted]

Khin Nyunt next said some large countries are trying to influence the country by various means and if a country is influenced by another country it will be the same as losing independence and thus, the state will disintegrate. He also urged the national races to defend the state from the dangers of colonization. [passage omitted]

The coordination meeting came to a close at 1700. [passage omitted]

Businessmen Threatened With Military Tribunals

BK2312112591 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Excerpts] A coordination meeting of the Yangon [Rangoon] Division Law and Order Restoration Council [YDLORC] on distribution and sale of rice and cooking oil was held at 0800 today at the Conference Hall of the Yangon Division People's Police Force on Strand Road.

Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the YDLORC, attended the meeting and delivered a speech. The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Maung Maung, chairman of the Central Committee for Ensuring Correct and Smooth Flow of Commodities and Stabilizing and Reducing Commodities Prices and commander of the 502d Air Force Base; Colonel Khin Lat, chairman of the Yangon Division Committee for Ensuring Correct and Smooth Flow of Commodities and Stabilizing and Reducing Commodities and commander of the Defense Services Records Office; members of the YDLORC; chairmen of the law and order restoration councils from Yangon, Insein, and Hanthawaddy township zones; chairmen of township law and order restoration councils in Yangon Division; responsible officials from the Myanmar [Burma] Red Cross and the Fire Services Department; heads of township Red Cross units; Fire Services reserves; members of Red Cross units; and invited guests.

Speaking first on distribution and sale of rice and cooking oil, Commander Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said the meeting with members of Red Cross units and Fire Services reserves had been called to request their help in implementing the third of the four tasks of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]—to work its utmost to relieve the people's needs for food, clothes, and shelter and to give assistance as much as possible to the cooperative and private sectors.

Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said the state is currently distributing rice and cooking oil through the cooperatives. However, he said it has been learned that the main commodities provided by the state—rice and cooking oil—are not reaching the consumers fully because of unscrupulous practices of some cooperatives and employees at cooperative shops. He said therefore the state is having to ask the help of the Red Cross members and Fire Service reserves, who already have a social conscience, in distributing rice and cooking oil from now until the end of January 1992 to ensure the rice and cooking oil fully and correctly reach the consumers. [passage omitted]

He said although the state government is working its utmost to stabilize and reduce the prices of commodities the prices of commodities are unstable because of unscrupulous practices of corrupt public servants, excess greed by merchants who are bent on earning proofit unjustly by manipulating prices, and economic offensives by some politicians. He said the state is investigating and exposing those who are manipulating the prices of commodities and effective action will be taken against them.

Continuing, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said the government had tried its utmost in meeting the needs of the business sector. However, he said it has been found that the merchants do not consider the interests of the general public and that they are only concerned with making profit. He said that is why the prices of commodities are still unstable today.

He said the business sector should understand that in registering for wholesale business, Article No. 23 of the provision for registering a wholesale license states that if they cause a steep rise in the price of rice by manipulating the market with the intention of undermining the country's law and order, effective action will be taken against them by trying them at military tribunals. He said the time has now come for the business sector to respond positively to the call made upon them by the state. [passage omitted]

He said the work of Red Cross unit members and Fire Services reserves to bring about the physical and mental well-being of the people will be a historic one as the year 1992 has been declared the Year of the Economy, and they would be contributing to successful implementation of the Year of the Economy. He said he would like to urge the Red Cross unit members and Fire Services reserves to carry out their assigned tasks with minimum mistakes and to the best of their ability. [passage omitted]

The meeting ended at 1045.

Investigation Bureau Exposes Corrupt Officials

BK2312152391 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The National Investigation Bureau [NIB] has conducted investigations following reports that the

Myanmar [Burma] Marine Enterprise [MME] has been suffering losses because of self-seeking MME personnel who are engaged in unscrupulous practices. After the investigations were confirmed, 26 personnel, including one managing director, two general managers, and three assistant general managers, from the MME were removed; 15 personnel, including one airline personnel and one assistant general manager were given retirement; and nine personnel, including the director general of the Department of Planning and Statistics of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Breeding and the director general of the Fisheries Department, were given warnings. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the managing director, general manager, deputy general manager, assistant general manager, and managerial-level staff of the MME who serve as chairmen, secretaries, and members of the board of directors in joint ventures are reported to be earning foreign exchange beyond the limit they are allowed under the existing rules and regulations.

The two fishing trawlers purchased abroad by the MME were found to be outdated and expensive to maintain and are of no use to the enterprise. It was also found that the fishing system of the two trawlers is substandard compared to other vessels in the MME. The state suffered losses in its foreign exchange earnings from these vessels.

There were further losses from three vessels of the MME which were ineffective in fishing ventures upon their return to Myanmar after repairs abroad at a cost of $600,000. It was also found that expenses were padded for the project for a canned sardines factory constructed under a joint venture arrangement with a foreign company. [passage omitted] As a result, the project was incurring losses for the enterprise.

It was also found that MME personel visited Thailand on a study tour under a joint venture with a foreign firm for the production of shellfish. Upon their return they lowered the price of shellfish. They are allowed to sell 25 percent of live shellfish abroad under the arrangements made by the firm concerned. However, the resident representative of the firm bribed and approached the MME personnel, including a managing director, and gave an exhorbitant salary to two low-level personnel to wield influence.

Although the MME is to receive large amounts in credit in dollars from foreign firms, the enterprise has failed to collect the outstanding credit. The MME is operating at a great loss annually. The MME lost a total of 311.3 million kyat between the 1985-86 and 1989-90 fiscal years.

The managing director and some responsible officials of the MME coordinated with foreign joint venture firms in appointing their own children in various companies, received financial assistance and bribes from companies, and received medical treatment abroad. It has been learned that the state suffered losses from the one-sided contracts signed by the MME. It has been learned that because of these losses to the state the authorities concerned had to take action. [passage omitted]

Troops Attack Major Karen Stronghold

BK2412055691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 24 (AFP)—Burmese troops have bombarded a key base belonging to ethnic Karen guerrillas near the Thai-Burmese border, Thai border police said Tuesday.

Border police in Mae Sot district, bordering Burma, said Rangoon's troops heavily shelled the Karen National Union guerrillas' Kawmura base on the Burmese side of the Moei River on Saturday and Sunday.

They said Burmese troops taking positions on two hills about one kilometer (half a mile mile) behind the camp have been unable to seize it.

So far nearly 200 shells have been fired at the camp, border police said, adding that casualties and damage were unknown.

The Karens, who have been fighting for regional autonomy from Rangoon since Burma became independent in 1948, have been involved in bloody clashes with government troops since early October.

Burmese troops last week captured two Karen strongholds after fierce fighting in which nine guerrillas were killed and a large number of weapons and ammunition seized.

Commission Revokes People's Assembly Status

Announcement No. 987

BK2012152191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 987 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar, dated 20 December 1991]

[Text] The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued announcement No. 987 on 20 December 1991.

Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of five persons who infringed on Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons in sub-section A, B, C, and D, from the National League for Democracy [NLD], and one independent candidate mentioned in sub-section E who were elected as People's Assembly representatives during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990 have been found guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Win Hlaing, KTBA004394, Tatkon Township constituency-2, Mandalay Division—Section 5-A, 5-B, 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.

B. U Chan Aye, KP057288, Moulmein Township constituency-2, Mon State—Section 5-A, 5-B, 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.

C. U Soe Nyunt, 12/NYATATA-NAING 012712, Kyauktan Township constituency-2, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Section 5-A, 5-B, 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.

D. U Tin Htut, 12/MAGATA-NAING 013112, Einme Township constituency-1, Irrawaddy Division—Section 5-A, 5-B, 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.

E. U Liam Ok, 4/HAKANA-NAING 005025, Haka Townshiop constituency, Chin State—Section 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.

2. Hence, they are found to have infringed Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law and they no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly Representatives and their status as elected representatives have been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-B of the People's Assembly Election Law, the five persons mentioned above shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the next 10 years with effect from today.
By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Announcement No. 988

BK2412102191 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 988 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar, dated 23 December 1991]

[Text] The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued Announcement No. 988 on 23 December 1991.

Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly Representatives of five persons who infringed on Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons from the National League for Democracy [NLD] were elected as People's Assembly Representatives during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990 have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Sein Hla Oo, MGN173145, Insein Township constituency-2, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

B. Daw San San, CB028575, Seikkan Township constituency, Yangon Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

C. Daw San San Win, AD026455, Ahlone Township constituency, Yangon Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

D. U Saw Hlaing, IDW008743, Indaw Township constituency, Sagaing Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

E. Dr. U Soe Lin, 9/MANATA-NAING 016964, Mandalay Southwest-1 Township constituency, Mandalay Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

2. Hence, they are found to have infringed Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law and they no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly Representatives and their status as elected representatives have been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-A of the People's Assembly Election Law, the five persons mentioned above shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the future.
By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary.

Cambodia

Diplomats Blame Violence on Frustration, Anger

BK2312114691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 23 Dec 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 23 (AFP)—Cambodians are frustrated and angry.

The war is over; United Nations forces are here, but life seems to be getting rosier for only a few government officials.

The result, according to diplomats and aid workers who witnessed the capital's bloodiest weekend in years, is violence.

These are a people who survived the authoritarian Khmer Rouge regime from 1975 to 1979. The Vietnamese-installed communist government that followed, by its own admission, did not allow freedom of speech or expression—after all there was a civil war going on.

Now, encouraged by a peace treaty that brought in United Nations troops and by the government's recent pledges of democratic reforms, people are taking to the streets.

Five people were confirmed killed in a weekend of violent protests, including three by official account and at least two others according to eyewitnesses and doctors.

"People are really, really, really angry," said one Western diplomat.

One spark was Prime Minister Hun Sen's recent allowance of peaceful demonstrations in a country where previous gatherings were always orchestrated by the government.

"Maybe they feel more free to express themselves," the diplomat said. "But the real spark is all this corruption going on, a brazen pigging out of public assets."

Various groups last week staged smaller protests against government officials they alleged had sold land and other government assets and pocketed the profits.

"There's always been corruption, but not on this scale," the diplomat said. "There's bit money coming in and the top officials are stuffing the money in their pockets."

Phnom Penh's poor and middle classes have witnessed the rise of the nouveau riche in the last few months, as foreigners and their investments began coming in and deals were made.

Some Cambodians drive fancy cars and dance nightly at discos while the poor live in humble roadside shacks.

In addition, many civil servants—who still earn the equivalent of 10 to 12 U.S. dollars a month—have not received paychecks in three months.

Several government workers said they don't bother going to the office anymore.

"At least the Khmer Rouge aren't corrupt," said one worker, who said the Hun Sen government was becoming increasingly unpopular.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said Saturday that the violence had nothing to do with corruption or with what he acknowledged were disparities between government salaries and the cost of living.

He blamed the violence on subversive elements, hinting they could be from the former resistance factions who signed the peace treaty.

Anti-corruption demonstrations led Hun Sen to dismiss Communications and Transport Minister Ros Chhun and three of his deputies Friday after a mob sacked his house in the same way the Khmer Rouge leaders were attacked last month.

Thousands of Cambodians saw that November 27 attack which drove Khieu Samphan and Son Sen out of town, either by being in the crowd of 10,000 or by watching one of its many rebroadcasts on television.

Several diplomats have suggested that the people of Phnom Penh are continuing to copy the violence.

During the Saturday demonstrations, many protestors picked up rocks and threw them at police.

The event was mimicked by children in the streets of Phnom Penh all day Monday as schools were closed to head off more unrest.

A typical Cambodian children's game involves throwing a pebble as close as possible to an object on the ground.

But at least four groups of children were observed throwing the rocks at each other.

Another cause of the violence was frustration over the economy as the riel became increasingly unstable, an Asian diplomat said.

Thousands of Cambodians who have taken jobs with foreigners and who are paid in dollars saw a more than 50 percent cut in salaries as the blackmarket exchange rate dropped from 1200 riel to the U.S. dollar in October to 520 this week.

At the same time, the well-off classes which had been keeping their money in U.S. dollars were angry about the drop.

Cambodians also had high expectations of the United Nations, whose troops have arrived in small numbers since the peace agreement was signed.

"People were led to believe things would change once the U.N. got here," the Western diplomat said. "They're disappointed."

Commentary Urges End to Corruption, Violence

BK2412083891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Khuon Khemarin's political commentary: "It Is Imperative To End the Violence and Corruption in Cambodia"]

[Text] The recent demonstrations in Phnom Penh have caused concern over the future destiny of Cambodia at a time when the Cambodian people all over the country, and the world at large, are expecting that peace will return to this tiny country whose wretched people have eked out a miserable existence through the past 21 years of war.

These demonstrations, however, can also be a blessing in disguise as they surely will help prevent the corrupt practices of stealing from the nation and selling off public property from occurring again, both in the current Hun Sen administration and in any other administration that will spring out of the future elections. Thus, some good and bad things have resulted from the turmoil in the Cambodian capital.

Nevertheless, this incident remains most deplorable. A number of young people who cherished social justice were either killed or injured. A number of policemen whose duty was to maintain order under the command of the Hun Sen authorities also fell victim. Some innocent bystanders, too, were hurt in these demonstrations. All these people, whatever their uniforms, were Cambodians by blood. For this reason, should such activities continue? The riots over the past few days seem more

than sufficient to enable both sides—that is, the authorities and the demonstrators—to recognize one another and, consequently, to meet and peacefully negotiate with each other. Is it not true that arguing endlessly and wasting a lot of saliva in the process is much more preferable to causing a bloodbath in the Cambodian motherland?

Demonstrators should stop using stones, batons, or sticks and refrain from torching and destroying private or public property, and the Hun Sen authorities should desist from using military force to kill and especially should abstain from the corrupt practices of selling off national resources. The Soviet Union has collapsed and changed its outlook as of now; Eastern Europe has experienced an unexpected metamorphosis; the Berlin Wall crumbled in just a wink; Ceausescu was executed because of his despotism and corruption; and Marcos' wife has been put on trial so the billions she had earned from corruption could be recovered. So, the world is going through great changes, especially the changes from bad to good. In Cambodia, then, what can we do to bring about the good things? For the time being, we Cambodians want to see clean and honest acts in our country. For this reason, there is nothing better than displaying mutual trust and uttering nice words toward each other in the spirit of brotherhood.

On the recent events in Phnom Penh, it is our opinion that there should be no military crackdown on the demonstrations at all. It is also our opinion that demonstrations should not turn violent either. Moreover, the Hun Sen authorities should respond to the call of the Cambodian citizens by immediately suppressing corruption and cancelling all sales of the nation's public property.

DK Denies Involvement in Phnom Penh Unrest

BK2412022091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Dec 91

["Statement of Democratic Kampuchea rejecting slanderous remarks hinting at and bent on accusing Democratic Kampuchea of involvement in the bloody demonstration and unrest in Phnom Penh"—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. It has been learned both inside the country and across the world that in the past week, big demonstrations were staged successively in Phnom Penh by people, workers, employees, students, and other social circles to protest corruption.

These mass demonstrations proceeded for several consecutive days and there were clashes between the policemen and soldiers and the demonstrators, causing some dead and wounded.

2. Concerning this bloody unrest in Phnom Penh, the Phnom Penh side has made slanderous remarks hinting at Democratic Kampuchea's [DK] involvement.

3. The DK side rejects all these slanderous hints. The DK side has no involvement in that bloody and chaotic situation in Phnom Penh and the DK side has no responsibility whatsoever for goings on in Phnom Penh.
[Dated] 23 December 1991.
[Signed] The Party of Democratic Kampuchea.

Ministry Rejects VOA Report on Student's Death

BK2412004291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Statement by unidentified Interior Ministry spokesman—read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry rejects a report carried by the Voice of America on the night of 22 December at 2130 Phnom Penh time in which this radio exaggerates and unjustly accuses the people's police force of the State of Cambodia of arresting and torturing a medical student to death on 21 December 1991.

In fact, the police force neither arrested or tortured the medical student to death. On the contrary, some bad elements incited the demonstration and unrest. They went up to the top of the Sukhalai Hotel and fired gunshots at the demonstrators and security forces, wounding some and killing a 17-year-old student of Bak Touk School named Mak Kunthi. A policeman and 18 others were wounded.

In such a situation, the security forces were compelled to fire their guns up into the air, killing a 40-year-old bad element whose name was not known. This man fell from the roof of the building to the ground with a pistol in his hand. The security forces continued to surround this hotel area until the dawn of 22 December [words indistinct] found five other weapons.

Once again, the Interior Ministry rejects the VOA report on 22 December and regards this report as a groundless accusation.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 23 December 1991.

Educational Institutions Suspended Indefinitely

BK2412063291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0410 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 24—Cambodian Ministry of Education has declared the suspension of all educational institutions in Phnom Penh with indefinite date following the students violent demonstrations.

In a statement released here Sunday, the Ministry of Education said: "In order to keep the safety for all pupils and students, the study must be suspended as from Dec. 23, 1991, because last week a group of gangsters took the opportunity to instigate the students to make chaos which affected the stability and social order."

"The resumption of the school and universities will be declared only when the social order becomes stable," the statement said.

"At the same time, the Ministry of Education appeals to the students' parents and teachers to help calm down the students' mind and well comply with the statement of our government," the statement said.

Indonesia

31 'Detained' in Connection With Dili Massacre

BK2312155691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1040 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 23 (AFP)—Two officials and a member of the Indonesian Red Cross were among 31 people detained in East Timor following last month's bloody shooting in Dili, the weekly magazine EDITOR said here Monday.

EDITOR, quoting unnamed sources, identified the two civil servants as Filemeno Gomes, 50, a high ranking official at the governor's office, and Bonifacio Barrero, who heads the office's Logistics Department.

Matheas Gunvea Duarte, 40, who worked for the Dili branch of the Indonesian Red Cross and was believed to have hidden East Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao for 12 days prior to the November 12 shooting, was also among the detainees, EDITOR said.

Jakarta said 19 people died and 91 others were injured after troops, acting in self-defence, fired into a mob of demonstrators at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili.

Other sources, including witnesses, said the army's action was unprovoked and that up to 100 people might have died in the shooting.

Gomes, according to the magazine's sources, was the coordinator of the "agitation and propaganda" section of the National Committee of the Fretilin Mass Movement, led by Xanana.

Fretilin has been fighting for independence for East Timor since Indonesian troops entered the former Portuguese colony in 1975. Jakarta unilaterally declared East Timor its 27th province in 1976.

EDITOR said security authorities in East Timor were also seeking five other civil servants believed to have been involved in the November 12 demonstration.

The weekly did not identify the other 28 detained by police in Dili.

Attorney General Singgih has said eight of the 31 would be tried for subversion, a charge which carries a maximum sentence of death.

He said the others would be tried under a clause in the Indonesian penal code which says that those caught publicly expressing enmity or hate towards the lawful government can be jailed up to seven years.

Suharto, Envoy To Australia Discuss Situation

BK2412104291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0952 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 24 (OANA-ANTARA)—Relations between Indonesia and Australia, just as with any other country, should be based on mutual respect, President Suharto stressed.

"The president also counsels Indonesians not to be panicky just because several countries had stated the intention to suspend their assistance," Indonesian ambassador to Australia Sabam Siagian said after seeing the head of state on Tuesday.

Siagian reported to the president the conditions of Indonesian diplomats in Australia after the November 12 incident in Dili, East Timor, which had led to demonstrations in several Australian cities.

The president asked the diplomats to keep on working to their best and to avoid being provoked by the actions of the Australians.

He had the same advice for Indonesian students in Australia, adding that they should refrain from getting into physical confrontation.

Regarding hostile attitudes shown by some Australians, Siagian said maybe Indonesians need to be more patient in dealing with such persons.

Asked whether the new Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, would visit Indonesia as his predecessor Bob Hawke had planned to do, Siagian said in principle the plan for a visit to Indonesia by the Australian prime minister had not changed.

The visit could still be in February next year as originally planned, he added.

Keating's visit would not be tied to any condition, he said, because the new prime minister realizes the importance of Australia-Indonesia relations.

Envoy Views Impact of USSR Dissolution on UN

BK2212131591 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] Nana Sutresna, Indonesian permanent representative to the United Nations, believes that the dissolution of the Soviet Union, scheduled for 1 January 1992, will have a great impact on the United Nations because of its seat on the UN Security Council as stipulated by the UN Charter.

Speaking to reporters in New York, Nana Sutresna said the loss of the Soviet seat will cause a series of constitutional crises at the world organization, and to solve such a problem it may finally be necessary to amend the UN

Charter itself. Such an amendment may modify the regulation on the number of UN Security Council members or transfer the Soviet seat to another country.

Laos

PLO's 'Arafat Pays Short Visit, Departs 22 Dec

BK2312073291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Yesterday evening, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and of the Executive Committee of the PLO, arrived in Vientiane capital by a special plane to pay a short official visit to Laos at the invitation of the party and government leaders of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

Welcoming President Yasir 'Arafat and his entourage at Wattai Airport were LPDR Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon; Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; other ministers, deputy ministers, and a number of high-ranking cadres concerned. Salim 'Umar Shalih, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine to Laos, and a number of the embassy staff were also at the airport to welcome President 'Arafat and his party. In his conversation with the state visitor at the airport, first Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon conveyed the warm greetings of LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan to President 'Arafat, saying that the Lao president was currently engaged with work someplace else and was unable to welcome President 'Arafat in person.

After that the two personalities informed each other of the internal situation in their respective countries and made comments on the current changing world situation. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon reiterated the stand of the Lao people who always support the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

President 'Arafat conveyed his greetings to President Kaysone Phomvihan and thanked the Lao Government and people for having consistently supported the just cause of struggle of the Palestinian people.

On the same evening, Yasir 'Arafat and his entourage left for home by special plane.

Defense Minister Greets SRV Defense Minister

BK2212060891 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] On 21 December, Comrade Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-Gnason, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and national defense minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, sent a greeting message to Comrade General Doan Khue, national defense minister of the SRV, in Hanoi.

The message reads:

Respected comrade minister, on the occasion of the 47th founding anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA], I, on behalf of the National Defense Ministry, cadres, and combatants in the entire Lao People's Army [LPA], and on my own, extend greetings and best wishes to you comrade minster and through you to the leadership of the national defense ministry, cadres, and combatants in the entire VPA.

Over the past 47 years, the heroic VPA, under the capable and clear-sighted leadership of the majestic Communist Party of Vietnam and with the wholehearted assistance from the people in the entire country and sincere support from friends throughout the world, has been growing bigger ceaselessly and is capble of overcoming all tastes [words indistinct], defeating every enemy, registering excellent heroic deeds, brilliantly fulfilling duties toward the nation and noble international obligations, and contributing to the struggle for national independence, peace, and stability in the region and world.

The LPA is extremely elated and proud of the achievements and victories of the fraternal VPA and regards the said achievements and victories as its own.

On this auspicious occasion, I, on behalf of the cadres and combatants of the LPA, wish to express our sincere gratitude and profound gratefulness to the Vietnamese party, government, people, and VPA for their great effective assistance to the Lao revolution. I wish the great friendship and special solidarity and all-around cooperation between our two countries and armies be further developed to new quality. I wish you comrade minister good health, happiness, and new achievements in your noble tasks.

New Envoy Received by Cambodia's Chea Sim

BK2412023491 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, recently received a courtesy call from Khamphan Simmalavong, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Cambodia.

At the reception, Chairman Chea Sim welcomed and hailed the assumption of duty by the Lao ambassador to Cambodia, expressing hope that the latter, through his office, would contribute to further strengthening the solidarity between the Lao and Cambodian peoples.

The Lao envoy pledged to do his utmost to contribute to developing and strengthening the relations of friendship and solidarity between the two countries. He pointed out that the Lao Government would certainly continue expanding good relations with the neighboring countries. The Lao ambassador expressed full support to the peace agreement on the Cambodian problem, signed in Paris on 23 October this year.

Philippines

Manila, Washington Fail To Resolve N-Arms Issue

HK2412015591 Manila DWTZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] The Philippines and the United States again failed to resolve some important issues, particularly the issue of nuclear weapons.

Earlier, Malacanang said that the U.S. forces can leave Subic Naval Base by the end of this year if no executive agreement for a three-year withdrawal period is reached.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said there is no progress in their talks because there are other issues on which they disagree, but it is expected that this will be resolved in their next meeting before the 31 December deadline.

U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner promised that Washington will again be consulted on the three positions which were presented by the Philippines, including the issues of nuclear weapons, freedom of using the facilities inside the base, and the schedule of withdrawal of the U.S. forces within three years.

Aquino Lauds Military on 56th Anniversary

HK2212042691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0217 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Speech by President Corazon Aquino at the 56th anniversary celebration for the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City—live, in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel, General Lisandro Abadia, Secretary Renato de Villa, Honorable Diosdado Macapagal, your excellencies of the diplomatic corps, the honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the officers, men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], fellow workers in government, *my beloved countrymen*: Today as we celebrate the 56th year of the AFP, let the Filipino people pay tribute to the Filipino soldier. For as we are witness to the restoration of the General Headquarters as the traditional seat of the AFP, we also mark the greater unification of our Armed Forces. We are witness to the emergence of the new Filipino soldier.

It has been two years since he confronted a crisis of loyalty. It is to his credit that he has chosen well. Straight-willed, sword sharpened, image restored, and public confidence on his side, he is determined to rise above narrow interests, firm in his resolve to safeguard the Constitution, respect the rule of law, and protect our democratic way of life.

We have instilled again in the man in uniform that the military is a force for national stability, a key institution for nation building in a democracy where true power lies in the hands of the people. He has measured up to the challenges of the service with dedication, discipline, determination, and well-informed, decisive leadership. There is no doubt that the AFP today upholds civilian supremacy. We also reaffirm this government's commitment to continued and greater professionalization of the military through the promise of your responsible leadership and competent example.

I am particularly proud that we have institutionalized a system for promotion based on merit. We look at what a man knows about his job, not who he knows on the job; what he has done for our people, not just what others claim he can do. We now have an even more professional environment where the good military man can be his best.

Within our limited resources, we have also tried to respond to your needs. Early this year, the Home Development Mutual Fund [HDMF] and the Armed Forces signed a loan agreement for the rental home construction loan program amounting to 40 million Philippine pesos. This will provide rental-housing for enlisted personnel and civilian employees in eight camps nationwide. I am directing the AFP to meet immediately with the HDMF to expedite the realization of these plans.

More importantly, we have rationalized the AFP's service support system as we evolve new defense arrangements. As we move towards a leaner but tougher and more effective Armed Forces, your task today gradually focuses on external threats to national security. We are continuously improving your logistical capabilities as part of the modernization plan of the Armed Forces. We have introduced values-formation in more extensive military training.

Perhaps, more than any armed forces in Southeast Asia, it is our AFP which has participatory mechanisms in place. We have endeavored to ensure that the concerns of every soldier will be taken into account in the programs aimed to improve his welfare.

We have given more meaning to the traditional role of the military in nation building. The military officer becomes more than a soldier in the field of battle or guerrilla warfare; he also becomes a community-oriented officer immersed in the life of the barangays to which he is assigned, geared towards progress and development.

The 1992 elections shall be another test for our political maturity and moral discipline. It is yet another crucible for the Filipino soldier. Tasked to assist the Commission on Elections, the AFP will be our people's partners in ensuring peaceful, orderly, and honest elections. Let me reiterate my instructions to the AFP: To take all the necessary steps to ensure peace and order during the election period.

I remind you all of your duty to ensure the smooth and peaceful turn-over of power in June. It is not just the sanctity of the ballot that you must guarantee, but the sanctity of the will of the people.

General Abadia reported to me that in his visit to field units; there is a profound understanding of what is to be expected of the Filipino soldiers in the months ahead. He has assured me that the man in uniform will remain nonpartisan. I note with great satisfaction that the Armed Forces' leadership continues to institutionalize loyalty to the Constitution and to the people; for this I commend the chief of staff. [applause]

I also commend the men and women of the AFP for having remained steadfast. I also congratulate the awardees today for proving that what we have hoped for can be made alive. Remain firm in your resolve to uphold the ideals of your profession. The chain of command must be free from obstruction. It must function smoothly at all levels. Remember that while you may be training to win battles, it is because your true mission is to preserve the peace. The real military leader is on who accomplishes his task without the need to go to war.

I trust that what we have done together in the last five years to raise public confidence in the military, along with the reforms we continue to implement, demonstrate to all how this government applies this principle that I abide by. It is also the policy for the military in a democracy. Offer reconciliation, but only with justice.

We dedicate this general headquarters to all that we have achieved and intend to achieve together for a stronger, more professional Armed Forces. Let us not forget the stiff price we had to pay to restore the infrastructure of the military. Let us then pause for a moment to remember the loyal men and women of the Armed Forces, who, fighting to preserve our peace, lost their lives during the past seven destabilization attempts on our government. As we say a prayer for them, we renew our vows that their acts of heroism shall never be in vain.

As your commander in chief, I commend the AFP for having been true to duty and honor. As your president, I reiterate my trust and faith in the Armed Forces, its officers and enlisted personnel and civilian employees, to carry out their duties and responsibilities in the highest tradition of military professionalism and loyalty in a democracy.

This Yuletide season, I ask you to join me in prayer for greater peace in and continued progress of our country. Merry Christmas to you all, long live the AFP. [applause]

Japan Outlines Three Issues for Closer Ties

HK2412032091 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Dec 91 pp 1, 5

[By Rexie M. Reyes]

[Text] Japan underlined once again the need for the Philippine Government to address three issues to assure greater cooperation from their government, Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao told newsmen yesterday.

These three issues were: the completion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review, removal of procedural bottlenecks, especially for Japanese companies, and, improvement of the country's capacity.

The IMF review, which was supposed conclude on October 1991, had to be postponed to January 25, 1991 [year as published] due to the delays in the implementation of the new tax enhancement measures and the lower power rate hike, Mr. Estanislao said.

The delay in the IMF approval has caused some worries among the foreign donor community, particularly in Japan where there has been growing pressure from various camps to lower official development assistance to the Philippines.

The procedural bottlenecks for foreign companies must also be attended to if the Philippines is to get more foreign investments.

In particular, the Japanese Government requested the Philippine Government that information on legal cases against Japanese companies be given first before formally filing a lawsuit.

Mr. Estanislao clarified that the Japanese Government was not asking for any favors or trying to influence the Philippine Government on the legal cases against Japanese companies. They just want an improvement in the procedures for such cases filed against foreign companies.

Another area which the Japanese Government wants to be improved is the absorptive capacity or the country's ability to absorb foreign funds or ODA [Official Development Assistance].

The Japanese Government has been stressing the need to improve the absorptive capacity because of the huge amount of funds which remains unused for the last few years.

In addition, Mr. Estanislao said the Japanese Government wants to see the Philippines addressing environmental concerns in the projects being funded by foreign donors.

Thailand

UNAMIC To Reach Cambodia Via Prachin Buri

BK2012030591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Dec 91 p 10

[Text] The United Nations will transport military liaison officers to the Khmer resistance army headquarters in Cambodia via Watthana Nakhon military airfield in Prachin Buri on Sunday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said yesterday.

The UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), which is preparing for the full deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, sought Thailand's cooperation in a bid to station UNAMIC's military

liaison officers in the military commands of the four Khmer factions by the end of this year.

The military liaison officers will facilitate communications among the Khmer commands in matters related to the cease-fire.

They will be stationed in the districts of Ampil (with the Sihanoukist army), Thmar Pok (KPNLF) [Khmer People's National Liberation Front], Pailin (the Khmer Rouge) and Phnom Penh.

The UNAMIC liaison team in each of the Khmer army headquarters consists of five liaison officers, three communications officers and three vehicles. They do not carry arms.

Thailand granted permission for UNAMIC to use the Watthana Nakhon airfields to transport the liaison teams to the resistance headquarters on Sunday.

In addition, Thailand granted temporary entry-exist permits to the UNAMIC liaison teams for logistic backup.

SRV Assures Rice Traders of No Competition

BK2412022191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 91 p B12

[Text] Vietnamese officials have assured Thai rice traders that Vietnam will not compete with Thailand over rice exports, as the grain is not the main source of hard currency for their country.

Vietnam's Commerce Minister Le Van Triet was quoted as having told a Thai trade mission in Hanoi last week that petroleum was the main commodity Vietnam sought to develop.

Niphon Wongtra-ngan, executive president of the Thai Rice Mills Association, said yesterday that Vietnam has attempted to allay the fears of Thai rice exporters that Hanoi would dump rice in the world market in the near future, if its demand for hard currency was not satisfactorily met.

Triet said Vietnam would rely more on its petroleum export as the main source of hard currency, particularly after the concessions with the Soviet Union expire in 1995.

However, Vietnam would continue to sell rice in the meantime, Triet told the Thai delegation who visited Hanoi from Dec 16 to 21.

In previous talks between Thai rice exporters and Vietnam's rice trading enterprise, both sides agreed that Vietnam would use the Thai export prices as the base for quoting its own, to avoid cut-throat competition that would result from Vietnam's dumping massive rice stocks into the world market to acquire hard currency.

The Thai traders also renewed the call this time for Vietnam to adopt a system of announcing standard price for rice export, similar to Thailand's, to prevent foreign buyers pressing the Vietnamese for prices lower than the cost of production of Thai rice.

Triet was reported to have accepted the Thai proposal for consideration, but no commitment was made.

In 1992, Vietnam is predicted to produce 21 million tonnes to paddy, rising from 20.5 million tonnes this year, because of the prospect of better harvests in the north and the central regions.

Of this, between 1.2 and 1.3 million tonnes will be exported, compared with 1.1 million tonnes exported this year, Niphon was told.

Vietnam currently holds a stockpile of 200,000 tonnes only.

Niphon said Triet had noted that Thai rice was now sold at lower prices than Vietnam's, and queried the government's move to boost rice prices.

Niphon told Triet that the government has already announced a massive assistance package worth Bt2.2 billion to stabilize grain price, particularly at the start of the harvest season. He called on Vietnam not to resort to dumping and price undercutting, to fight over market shares.

He also called on the government to accelerate its assistance package. The government has set the target prices of unmilled rice this year at Bt4,000-4,200 a tonne, and would stop intervening in the market right away if prices stabilized at this level.

Niphon warned that the government's good intention could backfire, because foreign buyers might wait until the domestic rice price reached the ceiling before concluding a deal, because Thai exporters would have less opportunities to push up prices on the ground of higher domestic prices.

He suggested that the government should set the target price at Bt4,500 a tonne if it sincerely wished to boost rice prices to help farmers earn more.

According to the association, the production of the main paddy crop is expected to reach 17.5 million tonnes, while the second crop produces additional three million tonnes.

Bank Governor Comments on Recent Visit to SRV

BK2412020391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Dec 91 p 26

[Text] The Bank of Thailand has pledged to support banking development in Vietnam.

A central bank delegation, led by Governor Wichit Supinit, officially visited Vietnam last week at the invitation of State Bank of Vietnam Governor Cao Sy Kiem.

The team was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and had talks with officials of the State Bank of Vietnam, including Mr Cao.

Mr Cao told the Thai central bank officials of the economic reform underway in Vietnam in general and the banking reform in particular, the results obtained so far from these reforms, and the strong economic and financial policies to be introduced in order to stabilise the Vietnamese economy, control and reduce inflation, and promote economic relations with foreign countries, especially Thailand.

He informed the Thai officials of the severe training need of the Vietnamese banking system as it is being transformed from a centrally planned to a market economy system.

He expressed great appreciation for the Bank of Thailand's strong support given to Vietnam at international financial institutes, especially for the informal meeting on Vietnam held in Bangkok during the last World Bank/International Monetary Fund annual meetings.

Mr Wichit told the Vietnamese of the measures and policies being taken by the Bank of Thailand to deregulate financial laws in order to help develop the Thai financial system and economy.

He also reiterated the Thai Government's policies to develop economic relations with Vietnam and other neighbouring countries and expressed the hope that Vietnam would soon join the Association of South East Asian Nations in order to make Southeast Asia a stable and prosperous region.

The Thai delegation reaffirmed the Thai banking system's willingness to help train Vietnamese banking staff in the future.

Mr Wichit indicated the Bank of Thailand's plan to give technical assistance and training to the staff of the State Bank of Vietnam on the formulation and implementation of monetary policies with emphasis on supervision of commercial banks.

Meanwhile, Krung Thai Bank managing director Sirin Nimmanahaemin also told the Vietnamese that his bank was willing to help train the staff of their commercial banks.

Trade With Burma Said Plagued by Corruption

BK2412014791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 91 p B12

[Text] Chiang Mai—Trade between Thailand and Burma has failed to take off due to alleged problems arising from Burmese minority groups seeking protection money from traders.

In the third quarter, Thailand imported Bt804.45 million worth of goods from Burma and exported Bt756.04 million worth, resulting in a Bt48.40 million trade deficit for the Thai side.

Thailand imported locks, processed wood, jewellery, cattle and buffalos, agricultural goods and minerals from Burma while exporting consumer goods such as candy, detergent, garments, construction materials, vehicles, cosmetics, rubber shoes, electronic goods and umbrellas.

There were six border checkpoints between Thailand and Burma: Chiang Saen and Mae Sai in Chiang Rai, Chiang Dao in Chiang Mai, Mae Sariang and Muang in Mae Hong Son and Mae Sot in Tak. At present, Burma has closed most checkpoints except Mae Sot because of smuggling.

A trade source at Mae Sot told THE NATION that even though the Burmese government has stepped up security at many border checkpoints, there has been a relaxation at Mae Sot. This checkpoint has been the focus of trade with Thailand for some time and is also near Myawaddy, which has a fairly large population. The Burmese are able to get consumer goods at Mae Sot and most Thai exports to Burma pass through this point.

In the third quarter of this year, exports going through Mae Sot into Burma totalled Bt92 million while Chiang Saen witnessed Bt200,000 in trade.

However, the trade figure for Mae Sot is somewhat misleading due to widespread smuggling of both legal and illegal goods such as jewellery, cattle and buffalos, drugs and antique art including handicrafts from Burma, while Thai traders deal in smuggled motorcycles and consumer goods bound for Burma. The source said the real value of trade between Thailand and Burma was over Bt500 million per month.

Stabilization of the kyat has also impeded trade between the two countries. In mid-1991 the exchange rate was 100 kyat per 31-32 baht, but in December the rate was 100 kyat per 23-25 baht. In addition, there were rumours that the Burmese government would revalue the kyat, causing the currency to remain in a slump.

Due to these factors, Thai and Burmese traders have frequently used cheques instead of cash and consumer goods have been priced higher. Moreover, most Burmese cannot afford Thai imports, further dragging down trade and exports from Thailand to Burma.

The most important goods Thailand imports from Burma are locks and processed wood. In 1991, the value of these two items from Burma passing through the six border checkpoints was Bt1.2 billion, while the value of total imported goods was Bt1.3 billion. The value of wood products imported from Burma in the third quarter alone was Bt1.6 billion.

It is expected that Burmese exports of these items will increase to Bt2 billion in 1992.

Burma has exported timber products to Thailand for a long time because of its abundant natural resources. Burma has recently become more aware of environmental issues, so it is likely that production companies will get smaller concessions than in previous years.

In mid-1991, the Burmese government announced that a timber concession would cost 30 percent more. Price adjustments include teak grade 1 from US$2,000/tonne to US$3,000/tonne, lower grade teak from US$200/tonne to US$300/tonne, hardwood from US$180/tonne to US$270/tonne and softwood from US$80/tonne to US$120/tonne.

Aside from the cost of concessions, wood traders must often buy protection from minority groups along the border. Thai companies occasionally employ local workers to placate such groups even though most are unskilled.

Nepalese Prime Minister Urges Thai Investment

BK2412044091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has urged Thai business people and industrialists to invest in Nepal. The call was made yesterday when the Nepalese prime minister met Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at the Government House. The Nepalese prime minister made a stopover in Thailand yesterday morning on his way to Sri Lanka for a meeting of the South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation. He said Nepal needs more foreign investment to support its development process. Prime Minister Anan said he would pass on the issue to the Federation of Thai Industries and the Board of Trade of Thailand. Both prime ministers also held talks on existing good relations and contacts at all levels between the two countries.

Suchinda on Anan's Suitability as Prime Minister

BK2012150791 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] At the army meeting hall this morning, General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander and army commander in chief, answered reporters' questions about his opinions toward the U.S. President's remarks that Anan Panyarachun is suitable for the prime minister's post. He said that anyone can become prime minister. How can the U.S. President know better than the Thai people? He, personally, also agreed that Anan Panyarachun is suitable for the prime minister's post.

Asked whether the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] has selected a person to become the next prime minister, the supreme commander asked how the NPKC could prepare for this since it is a matter for the political parties to decide. It will be the job of the political party that wins the most seats in the National Assembly to decide on a person to assume the premiership.

Regarding the news report that the prime minister does not like soldiers, the supreme commander said that he had already known this for a long time when he worked with the prime minister in Washington. The reason for selecting Anan to take the prime minister's post was because we needed a person who could contribute to the country as much as possible regardless of his attitude toward the military.

Regarding the news that the NPKC will propose a two-step salary increase for officials who have been temporarily helping the NPKC, the supreme commander said that it is the duty of the NPKC to ask for rewards for these officials since they have come to work especially for the NPKC. When the NPKC is dissolved, these people will return to their original agencies.

Suchinda on Military Role in New Government

BK2412011791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Dec 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun vowed yesterday not to intervene in the selection of the new prime minister after the general elections scheduled for next March.

"But politicians must not cross the line to trample on the dignity of the military," he warned.

In an exclusive interview with THE NATION, Suchinda said the Senate, to be appointed by the chairman of the military junta, Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, will provide "stability" for the new government.

The army chief said members of the constitution drafting committee, the charter amendments scrutiny committee and the Assets Investigation Committee should be "rewarded" with seats in the new Upper House. Suchinda and other leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) are expected to play a key role in nominating the 270 members of the new Senate.

Under the Constitution, the Senate will carry a large degree of political clout with its power to vote in a no-confidence motion against the government.

Suchinda said the number of military officers in the new Senate "won't be larger than that in the present legislative assembly" which was named by the military junta after the Feb 23 coup.

But he frankly admitted: "For the military, its presence in the Senate is the only political channel through which we could participate in parliamentary democracy."

The military, he said, will return to the barracks once the elections are held.

"Frankly, we don't want to get involved in politics at all. But one must understand the realities of the Thai military establishment. Soldiers have been brought up and trained to hold high their dignity and their social

standing and any attempt to trample with that will not be taken lightly. This mentality will change, but only gradually," Suchinda said.

Asked why he had announced that he would not accept the premiership even if he were offered the job by politicians after the elections, the army chief replied: "I made that statement to make those who aspire to be premier happy." He did not elaborate.

Asked what lessons he had learned from the Feb 23 coup, Suchinda said: "If a coup was to achieve its aims, absolute powers and drastic actions must be exercised."

He reminded critics that once the coup had been staged, the NPKC immediately farmed out its powers. "We did not hold on to powers," he said.

Suchinda responded with a smile when asked whether he regretted not having imposed more "decisive rules" after seizing power.

Asked if he would stage another coup if the military leaders thought it necessary, Suchinda grinned and said: "No, I won't do it again. After all, the country doesn't belong to me alone."

The army chief said he was convinced that under the constitution, the NPKC chairman—and not the House speaker—would countersign the Royal appointment of the new prime minister after the general elections.

"But there is no big deal there. The NPKC chairman will no doubt nominate the person endorsed by the majority of the House members to become the new prime minister. I don't see why there is such a fuss over this issue," he said.

Suchinda explained that the constitution's provisional clause calls for the retention of the powers of the NPKC chairman to name the new prime minister "just in case the present premier can't fulfill his duties or if he should quit during this transitional period."

NPKC Urged To Follow 'Spirit' of Constitution

BK2412024391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "The spirit, not the letter of the law"]

[Text] In a situation where the contents of a particular law are found to be contradictory, the common wisdom comes into play in order to avoid any potential to follow the "spirit" rather than adhere strictly to the "letter" of the law. The exercise may not be entirely easy; but it is often not too difficult to sort out the spirit or the intention of the law. After all, the universal objective of any legislation—in a civilised society that is—is to serve the public interest and the betterment of the society for which the law was drafted.

The wisdom to distinguish between the "spirit" and "letter" of the law is particularly relevant in the current controversy over who—between the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] chairman or the House of Representatives speaker—should have the authority to countersign the appointment of the next prime minister after the general election expected in March. The controversy stems from two conflicting articles in the constitution. Article 159 stipulates that the House Speaker will countersign His Majesty the King's Royal Command appointing the prime minister. Article 216 in the transitional provision of the constitution, however, states that His Majesty will appoint the prime minister at the recommendation of the NPKC chairman.

The seriousness underlying the ramifications of these two conflicting provisions is amply clear. The former article has been seen as the product of a victory by the pro-democracy forces. It was incorporated into the constitution only after strenuous efforts by an alliance of students, academics and politicians who were highly critical of the original draft charter. That the head of the elected chamber will be authorised to countersign the royal appointment of the next prime minister should enhance the democratic development of this country. On the other hand, the NPKC stands to be criticised for trying to perpetuate its power if its chairman is to assume the same role. The latter case will also retard development of the overall political process.

Whether the "hidden power" of the NPKC in this regard is the handiwork of the (now-defunct) Constitution Scrutiny Committee is no longer relevant since whatever amendments it has made are now inscribed in the new charter. Call it an oversight on the part of the pro-democracy forces to have let this crucial transitional provision slip through, if you like. What is relevant is for all parties concerned to come up with a common consensus to sort out this crucial conflict so that the country can move forward and return to political normalcy after the forthcoming election.

Those of us who have followed political events since the February coup d'etat can still remember public pronouncements by the NPKC leaders on numerous occasions that they had no intention of clinging to power. Statements to the effect that they decided to stage the coup in order to correct all the things they perceived to be wrong with this country and would relinquish power after the post-election parliament took shape are all too familiar. The NPKC leadership already has authority to appoint the next Senate, a process by which it can perpetuate a strong influence over the wellbeing of the next government. Whatever suspicion there may have been about the NPKC's desire to have a direct crack at the next premiership was put to rest after last-minute amendments put the House Speaker—and not the originally-proposed Senate Speaker—in a position to countersign the prime ministerial appointment.

Viewed against this background, the spirit or intention of the constitution insofar as the next prime ministerial appointment is concerned is clear. Any stubbornness on the part of the NPKC to push ahead with the transitional

provision would not only be construed as an undemocratic act but also risk inviting another potentially serious wave of opposition. On the other hand, respect for the constitutional spirit would be applauded by the public. Enough time has been wasted and damage done in the agonising delay since the February coup. Let's waste no more time but move ahead quickly and return the country to democratic rule.

3 Killed in Clash With Group in Nan Province

BK2312075691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] According to Sukit Chunlanan, Interior Ministry inspector and spokesman, on 21 December personnel from the Defense Volunteer Company of Pua District and the 10th Cavalry Battalion participating in the tactical operation under the 32d Control Unit clashed with an unidentified armed unit in Pua District, Nan Province, resulting in two volunteers and a soldier being killed and two volunteers and a soldier being wounded.

Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi has instructed the Nan provincial administration to aid the wounded and organize a fitting funeral for the dead, as well as to provide financial assistance to the wounded and families of those killed.

The side which clashed with the government unit was believed to be either a unit of hilltribesmen formerly supported by the communist terrorists or an opium trafficking gang. Efforts continue to track down the unit in question.

Bangkok Seen as Aviation 'Gateway' to Indochina

BK2312041191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Dec 91 p 17

[Text] Bangkok has clearly become the gateway to neighbouring countries recently opened to outside visitors with over 60 flights weekly to and from Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Thai Airways International, Vietnam Airlines, Laos Aviation, Myanma [Burma] Airways and Air France currently offer a combined 51 flights (6,985 seats) from Bangkok to either Vietnam, Laos and Burma.

There are still no regular flights to Phnom Penh, but Bangkok Airways and SK Air between them offer over 10 charter flights weekly.

There are also provincial networks such as Chiang Mai to Pagan and Mandalay in Burma operated by Lanna Air, a joint venture between Asia Voyage and Diethelm Travel, offering three flights a week using an 18-seat EMB110 aircraft.

Eighteen Thai companies provide tours to the countries either as a single destination or combined.

Vietnam has reported a rapid increase in tourists, doubling from 40,000 in 1988 to 80,000 in 1990 and then to an estimated 200,000 people in 1991.

A number of airlines have started to operate to Ho Chi Minh City, including Malaysian Airlines, Garuda, Lufthansa, Qantas and Northwwest, supplementing the earlier services of Laos Aviation, Kampuchean Air, Philippines Airlines, Air France and THAI.

Although there is a big demand in the international travel market, Vietnam is still not in the position to accommodate more tourists because of a shortage of hotel rooms. There are now only a few hotels including the Floating Hotel, Majestic Rex, Caravelle and Continental.

The Government has initiated a policy to promote foreign investment and this has received a good response from such chains as Meridien, Accor, Peninsula and Regent, which hope to open properties in the next few years.

Vietnam Airlines, Air France and THAI offer 22 flights (3,270 seats) weekly from Bangkok to Ho Chi Minh City, and THAI and Vietnam Airlines also operate eight flights a week to Hanoi.

Tourists wishing to visit Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom in Cambodia must take domestic flights from Phnom Penh using Russian Tupolev 134 aircraft, which also operate to Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchy, Udomchai, Pratabong [Battambang] and Ko Khong [Kohkong].

Cambodia also has a lack of hotel rooms.

There are few standard hotels in Phnom Penh other than the Sofitel Cambodiana and a few others now being renovated by foreign companies, including the Royal Hotel.

Package tours from Bangkok to the Indochinese countries vary from 12,000-44,000 baht depending on the length of stay and number of attractions included. Cambodia is the most expensive with rates starting at 38,740 for three days.

Vietnam

Japanese TV Netwwork Interviews Do Muoi 16 Dec

BK2212130191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Interview with Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, by unidentified correspondents from the Japanese NDN Television Network on 16 December; place not given—announcer read]

[Text] [NDN Television] Vietnam has normalized relations with China. Please tell us if that event has brought about any longlasting results for Vietnam.

[Do Muoi] The official visit to China by a high-level Vietnamese delegation in November 1991 marked the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations both at the levels of party and state. The normalization of bilateral relations based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence meets the profound aspirations and basic interests of the two peoples and conforms with the trend for peace, cooperation, and development in the region and the world as a whole. Being two neighboring countries having a traditional friendship, Vietnam and China enjoy favorable conditions for working together toward common development. The normalization of bilateral relations will further promote the development of relations in many respects. Both countries are making positive preparations for reopening the border gates along the Sino-Vietnamese border; for restoring rail, sea, and air routes as well as post and telegraph services; for expanding economic, scientific-technical, cultural, and tourist activities; and for gradually resolving the remaining differences through peaceful negotiations and in a spirit of friendship.

[NDN Television] The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and East European countries are now heading toward collapse, especially following the recent coup in the Soviet Union. What is your opinion about that situation?

[Do Muoi] That is an internal matter of the Soviet Union and the East European countries. We sincerely hope that those countries will promptly overcome difficulties, stabilize the situation, and engage in national development. Whatever the situation, Vietnam will be grateful forever to the Soviet Union and the East European countries and will firmly maintain its solidarity, friendship, and cooperation with them.

[NDN Television] Some people maintain that it is very difficult for socialism to survive in the world. What is your opinion about the future of socialism?

[Do Muoi] Though socialist construction is a difficult and lengthy task, it remains mankind's most progressive goal. I will always believe in the future of socialism.

[NDN Television] What is the impact of this situation on socialism in Vietnam?

[Do Muoi] Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], the Vietnamese people have opted for the socialist path for more than 60 years now. That path is correct. Whatever the international situation, Vietnam will persistently follow its chosen path.

[NDN Television] Please give your opinion about political reforms in Vietnam. Specifically, will there be a multiparty system or not?

[Do Muoi] We have undertaken a reform program involving all aspects of social life, both economically and politically, and based on proper steps and procedures. The contents of the political reform have been reflected through the political platform and political report presented at the Seventh CPV Congress. The amendments to the 1980 Constitution being made by the 10th session of our Eighth National Assembly are also part of that goal. I made a speech on this issue at the party Central Committee's second plenum in late November 1991. There is no multiparty system in Vietnam because the CPV has been recognized by the Vietnamese people as the only party to lead the cause of national liberation and socialist construction and the current renovation undertaking.

[NDN Television] How has the current renovation been evaluated? What needs to be corrected and amended? What does Vietnam request from Japan?

[Do Muoi] The Seventh National CPV Congress held in June 1991 confirmed the continuation and development of the renovation path set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress. The renovation process has scored some initial important achievements. However, the country is facing many great difficulties, the people's standard of living is still low, and state management at the macro level still has many shortcomings.

We are implementing the Seventh National CPV Congress resolution. At the moment, we are focusing on accelerating production, practicing thrift, fighting inflation, improving the financial and monetary system, strongly developing the potential of different economic sectors, broadening relations with other countries—especially on economic relations, solving the unemployment problem and stabilizing people's living conditions, renovating the organization system, and purifying the state mechanism. We continue to renovate the party leadership.

Japan is an Asian country with an advanced economy and technology and has great experience in economic management. Vietnam and Japan have maintained relations for a long time. We would like to develop our cooperative relations in the economic, trade, science, technology, and cultural fields in order to build our nation on the principles of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, and mutual benefit. The Vietnamese people always want to build and develop honest friendship and cooperation with the Japanese people.

[NDN Television] Could you tell us what you are doing to improve relations with the United States even while that country has yet to resume ties?

[Do Muoi] With an open-door foreign policy and with a wish to befriend all nations in the international community, we have shown our goodwill to the United States. We advocate the normalization of bilateral relations without preconditions. We expect that the negotiations on normalizing SRV-U.S. relations will reach positive results meeting the aspirations of the two countries' peoples and the common trend toward the development of the international situation.

[NDN Television] Could you tell how Vietnam plans to cooperate with the Cambodian Government from now on and when Cambodia will return to peace?

[Do Muoi] As always, Vietnam wants to see Cambodia be a neighbor of peace, independence, neutrality, non-alignment, and friendship with all countries. The signing of the peace accord on Cambodia opened the prospect for the Cambodian people to build such a country. Being a signatory of the Paris peace accord, Vietnam will together with other signatories abide by the accord on the bases of respecting Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, the independence and security of Cambodia's neighbor countries, and the principles of the UN Charter. It is our policy to maintain and develop neighborly, friendly, and cooperative relations with Cambodia.

[NDN Television] Could you tell us your opinion about Vietnam joining ASEAN?

[Do Muoi] ASEAN has welcomed Vietnam's declaration of its desire to join the 1976 Bali Treaty. Today, Vietnam and ASEAN have many favorable conditions for strengthening friendly and cooperative relations for the benefit of the development of each country and the entire region, meeting the aspiration of each country's people as well as the Southeast Asian region as a whole.

Do Muoi Addresses National Children's Conference

BK2312153791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Dec 91

["Text" of speech by Party General Secretary Do Muoi at "National Conference for Vietnamese Children" in Hanoi on 12 December—recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: Today, I am very glad to attend this National Conference for Vietnamese Children. I warmly welcome international guests and all other participants from various areas throughout the country.

The National Conference for Vietnamese Children is very significant as it heralds that various generations of future Vietnamese citizens are entering the 21st century amid a demand for the development of their intelligence and personality to build our country into a wealthy and beautiful one so it can be ranked among the civilized nations in the world. [applause]

This conference reflects a profound concern of the Communist Party of Vietnam, of the SRV state, and of our people over our country's younger generations. It also demonstrates that our state is determined to honor all its commitments in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and in a declaration of the World Summit Conference on the Survival, Protection, and Growth of Children.

After the SRV promulgating a law on child protection and child care and after the introduction of a compulsory elementary education system, the National Conference for Vietnamese Children has come as a reassertion of the judicial character and the responsibility of our people, of educational organs, and of various mass organizations in the cause of providing protection, care, and education for children.

Dear delegates: We should care for the progress and growth of our children. As a traditional Vietnamese saying goes, it would be fortunate if children were more talented than their own fathers. Uncle Ho once put it: For the sake of our 10-year interests, we plant trees. For the sake of our 100-year interests, we build the people. This statement by Uncle Ho has become a watchword for us to follow. In practice, our party, state, and people have acted along this direction. In each family, children are being cared for daily by their fathers, mothers, and their older brothers and sisters. Millions of teachers of both sexes, physicians, scientists, writers, artists, and those cadres in charge of youth and women's activities are caring for children's health and educating them.

The protection, care, and education of children have shown many improvements in certain aspects compared to past years. We note these improvements with pleasure. We are also aware that the cause of providing protection, care, and education for children is facing great ordeals.

In reality, due to economic difficulties and the lingering consequences of war, children in our country will continue to suffer deprivation in their educational and recreational activities. The rate of children suffering from malnutrition is still high. The number of school dropouts and school-age children unable to go to school is also larger than before. Other activities aimed at caring for and educating children have also not been satisfactorily tackled.

I believe that after the National Conference for Vietnamese Children, party committee echelons, state organs, and mass oranizations will, within their functions and capabilities, work out specific plans to satisfactorily carry out all the laws, ordinances, and programs of action of our state concerning the children's issue.

We should direct all the attention and efforts of the state and mass organizations at motivating and urging the people to pay more attention to child care and child education. We should take realistic steps to build schools and classrooms and organize wholesome educational and recreational activities for children and to fight malnutrition among children.

The role of families, schools, and society is decisively significant for shaping children's personalities and developing their intelligence. Therefore, all of us should be determined to struggle to create a favorable environment for the education and nurturing of the younger generations.

The information and cultural sector should cooperate with responsible organs in exercising control over the

publishing of books and other publications and in ensuring that the contents of these publications are wholesome and suited to children's tastes and capable of enabling children to absorb the national cultural traditions so they can preserve and develop them and acquire those cultural quintessences of mankind.

It is necessary to deal strictly with the printing and publishing of decadent books, publications, and movie films that incite violence and spoil the pure minds of children.

Our economic life is still beset with difficulties. But with a high sense of responsibility, with the massive support of the people and of the entire society, with the effective assistance given by UNICEF and other international organizations, and with the collective efforts and close cooperation of various party organizations, state organs, and mass organizations from the central down to the grass-roots levels, it is certain that those objectives set forth in the international program of action for Vietnamese children will be realized, that our beloved children will be protected, cared for, and educated more satisfactorily, and that all younger generations of our country will develop in a more beautiful and wholesome fashion into a labor force made up of people with good knowledge and high qualities capable of ensuring the rapid and steady growth of our country in the future.

Over the years, UNICEF and other international organizations for children, have given constant and active assistance to Vietnamese children. We sincerely thank these organizations for this assistance and feel grateful to the international guests for having taken time out of their schedule to attend the National Conference for Vietnamese Children. I hope that through this conference, this attention and assistance will be further enhanced.

As the New Year is approaching, I wish the international guests and all other participants good health. [applause]

Deputies Discuss Anti-Corruption Measures

BK2012144191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Dao Nguyen report on 19 December morning debate by National Assembly Deputies over the question of enforcing the law against corruption and smuggling]

[Text] Dear friends: All the views expressed by National Assembly deputies highly valued the past efforts of the Council of Ministers in directing various sectors and echelons to enforce the law against corruption and smuggling. Some deputies emphatically said that for the first time this year the Council of Ministers presented as many as three reports at a National Assembly session on the question of fighting negativism. This shows that enforcing the law against corruption, smuggling, and bribery has become a very important task vis-a-vis our country's socioeconomic life and has won attention and concern from all the people.

It should be said that the bad practice of corruption and smuggling in our country is growing at an alarming rate. Through these reports of the Council of Ministers, many National Assembly Deputies believed that corruption, bribery, and smuggling would be a source of danger for our country if we fail to stop them effectively.

In analyzing the causes leading to corruption, bribery, and smuggling, the deputies cited the degradation and deviation of a segment of party cadres and members working in various sectors and echelons as the principal cause for this situation. They blamed the secondary cause on the many loopholes in economic management now that we are shifting our entire country to market economy. These loopholes involve various policy systems, the mangement of money and capital investment, and a host of other issues. Some deputies also believed that although our economic policies have changed, our social policies have not been able to catch up with this change, thus creating loopholes in the management of cultural and publication activities and other issues. These causes have led to the loss of billions of dong of state funds and to the flooding of the market in certain localities and at certain times with decadent publications, thus creating an unhealthy atmosphere and eroding our people's confidence in the party and state lines and limiting the country's growth.

When discussing major measures to be taken to fight corruption, smuggling, and bribery more effectively, the National Assembly deputies raised many rather specific views with the emphasis placed on calling for more political and ideological indoctrination to be given to cadres and people. Afterward, the National Assembly deputies also asked that various sectors and echelons, especially the Council of Ministers, provide guidance for looking at various documents and various policy structures for loopholes to be filled while strictly complying with all the laws now in force. Deputy Nguyen Dinh Ngo of the Thua Thien Hue National Assembly delegation said:

[Begin Nguyen Dinh Ngo recording] First, from now to the first session of the Ninth National Assembly, each province and each ministry should at least detect a typical corrupt case to be dealt with and widely published in the mass news media. Second, I suggest that we provide good guidance for the preparation of the law on accounting and statistics while making intensive preparations for the National Assembly to approve this law in its next term of office as the presence of a law on accounting and statistics is very necessary. At present, there are so many loopholes. I can say that keeping 500 million dong or one billion dong in cash at one time is highly inappropriate. As an immediate task, I suggest that we come up with a written regulation banning cadres from having direct access to money. I also ask that various echelons and sectors immediately do away with some 70 illegal ways of money collection as cited in the reports. With these illegal modes of collection, the money could not find its way to the state budget. Then where did all the money go? Third, I suggest that the

contingent of cadres be rearranged. In each ministry, the minister concerned should look at their personnel to see if there is anyone still inconveniencing the public or still committing corruption so as to lay them off. There is another issue: I think that we should continue to resolve the wage system as part of efforts to fight negativism. Finally, I ask that we try by all possible means to recover all these losses for the people. [end recording]

National Assembly Deputy Huynh Van Hoang of Ho Chi Minh City stated that in order to successfully fight corruption and smuggling, one of the necessities is to upgrade the cadre work up to its new requirements. That means capable and moral cadres must be rightly appointed and incapable and immoral cadres must be dismissed.

In their analysis, many deputies mentioned that our work against corruption, smuggling, and bribery has not achieved expected results because we have not had sufficient measures to carry out the task.

Therefore, in the future, according to Deputy To Tan Vu of Quang Ngai, that we have to encourage the participation of all social forces in which the mass organizations and fronts are the main force to attract all the people to take part. Going into details, Deputy To Tan Vu said:

[Begin To Tan Vu recording] Recently, our party and state have been stalwart and timely in setting policies against corruption and smuggling. I would like to offer some suggestions in fighting against corruption and smuggling in the coming period.

I agree that at present we have to focus on fighting corruption, motivating the entire public to cooperate with good coordination between different forces, especially interior security force, law enforcement agencies, and agencies responsible for ideological and information work.

We have to strictly, determinedly, and continuously fight corruption from top to bottom, from inside to outside. Anybody violating the laws must be correctly and reasonably judged and punished with no exception to anyone at any level. In my opinion, the higher position a corrupt official holds the more penalty he must pay so that we can stop the thinking that lighter penalties apply to high officials and more severe penalties to the lower ones.

We should combine all the means and strength of mass media to attach the anticorruption and antismuggling work with the coming reformation of the state mechanism in rearranging personnel structure and cutting staff. We must determinedly discharge anybody involved in corruption and smuggling from their official duty, including ones who harbor cadres engaged in corruption and smuggling. We have to publicly finalize already-discovered cases, especially cases having been mentioned by the press. [end recording]

One of the effective measures in fighting against corruption, bribery, smuggling, and other crimes is to improve our people's knowledge on the laws so we can use the knowledge as a foundation to fight corruption, smuggling, and other social vices.

Deputies Hoang Huynh and Nguyen Trong Diem of Hai Hung, Nguyen Duc Hanh of Thai Binh, Hoang Bich Son of Thuan Hai, Pham Van Kiet of Minh Hai, Pham Nhu Cuong of Nghe An, and some other deputies stated clearly that fighting against corruption and smuggling must go together with fighting against dissipation. It is necessary to try typical cases of corruption, smuggling, and bribery so we can draw experiences to fight against anybody who intends to commit acts of corruption, smuggling, and bribery.

The National Assembly deputies highly evaluated the role of mass media agencies in the past for their discovery and making public of many cases. However, in order to make the work of fighting corruption, smuggling, bribery, and other social vices achieve necessary results, there must be a close coordination between all sectors and mass media agencies.

Some deputies suggested that regarding some cases which have been concerned by the public with different opinions, it is necessary to hold a direct dialogue between the mass media agencies and responsible law enforcement agencies before announcing the case to the public, avoiding misunderstanding from the public that our government issues more warning than punishing, hesitates in dealing with its cadres, or only slightly punishes the cadres in its anticorruption work.

The deputies also clearly confirmed that we should continue to upgrade the role and responsibility of law enforcement forces in the work against corruption, smuggling, and bribery. Most of the deputies consented to the issuance of a resolution on anticorruption and antismuggling by this National Assembly session. Many deputies suggested that a special committee of the National Assembly be formed for anticorruption and antismuggling. However, other deputies held a view that the special committee should be formed by the Council of Ministers with related National Assembly committees cooperating closely to accelerate the fight against corruption, bribery, and smuggling.

Regarding this, Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, director of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee and deputy from Ho Chi Minh City stated:

[Begin Ngo Ba Thanh recording] From my point of view, the situation of corruption and smuggling is reaching a level that is so severe that it may even endanger the existence of our regime and it is harming the traditional morality and pride of our Vietnamese People.

We all know that the discussion by the National Assembly on these issues is important. But concrete deeds are more important. Practically, at least, in this session, the National Assembly must issue a resolution

on the work against corruption and smuggling. The resolution must entrust definite duty to every responsible organ. At the same time it must clearly define responsibility and power of the Nationalities Committee and other standing committees of the National Assembly so these committees can help the National Assembly and the Council of State efficiently supervise the implementation of the resolution. [end Recording]

Dear Friends, through the statements of the National Assembly delegates, we can realize that our fighting against corruption, bribery, and smuggling have scored many important achievements in the past and created confidence in the public.

Moreover, their statements also confirm one more time the determination of our entire party, people, and Army in fighting against corruption, bribery, and smuggling in the national construction.

Delegation Improves Trade Ties With Australia

BK2212090391 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—The working visit to Vietnam of an Australian trade delegation led by Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Neal Blewett from Nov. 16-21 marks a new step of development in Vietnam-Australia relations .

In recent years, trade value between Vietnam and Australia has constantly increased to U.S. $33.5 million in 1990 from U.S. $3.5 million in 1982. More than 20 Australian companies have been licensed to survey, mine and process minerals in Vietnam.

In the growing trade ties between the two countries, Austrade [as received] is playing an important role. It helps Australian businessmen and companies to better understand the great potentials of the Vietnamese market. The Export Finance and Insurance Company (EFIC) has helped Vietnam in the import of raw materials, equipment and machines. A number of Australian companies have invested in telecommunications, mineral exploitation, food processing, aquaculture and other fields. The joint ventures between the independent sea foods of Australia and marine product processing enterprises of Vietnam, between the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) of Australia and the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Corporation in installing satellite earth stations in Hanoi, and between the Bulk Materials (BMCH) Prt. Ltd. of Australia and the Hongai Coal Company of Vietnam, are being implemented favourably.

In the past five years, Australia's annual export value to Vietnam increased by 60 percent most of which are farm produce, pharmaceuticals, farm equipment and machines. In its new economic strategy, Australia considers Vietnam one of its 25 new markets. From now to 1994, Austrade will open 14 more representative offices in Vietnam and Indonesia. In their economic and commercial relations with Vietnam, Australian companies focus on agriculture, infrastructure, oil and gas and air transport. The Bunge Food Company wants to invest in food and animal feeds processing. BHP, the biggest international oil and gas company of Australia, wants to drill for oil together with Vietsovpetro. BMCH wants to help Vietnam increase the coal output of Cam Pha and Uong Bi to 5 million tons per year while Mitsui of Japan suggested a tripartite joint venture between Vietnam, Australia and Japan, and independent seafoods is completing preparations for a joint venture with Hai Hung Province in a 100 ton/year tomato processing factory. For its part, the John Holland Group Pty. Ltd. wants to design a railway linking Hanoi with the northern border, and helps increase Vietnam's railway freight capacity to 5 million tons a year.

Most Australian businessmen are worried about Vietnam's shortage of hard currency reserve and poor infrastructure. They also noted that Vietnam's commercial legislation is still deficient and labour force is largely unskilled. The question of capital raising especially through borrowings from the Asian Development Bank, the Internatioanl Monetary Fund and the World Bank, etc..., is also high on the agenda during bilateral talks.

Italian Envoy Calls Joint-Relations 'Positive'

BK2312160591 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 23 December 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.23—Italian Ambassador Maurizio Teucci has described as positive relations between his country and Vietnam and said development of these ties would serve the interest of both peoples.

Addressing the founding meeting last week of the Hanoi University's Faculty of Mathematics, Mechanics and Informatics, the ambassador, who is also honorary director of the Leonardo da Vinci Special School training pupils gifted in mathematics, is quoted by the English language daily VIETNAM NEWS as saying:

"At the approach of the 21st century—a century which presents itself as a century of peace, solidarity and global integration—it is necessary to proceed with a great deal of decision and quickness on the fastest way to development. I am sure that Vietnam, with its millenary wisdom and its intelligent and hard-working people, will know, among many difficulties, how to find the way to its fully reinsertion, not only in the South-East Asian context, but also on the international scene.

"My country, during its presidency of the European Community, has helped Vietnam in its reinsertion in the international frame, giving its essential contribution in establishing, in September 1990, diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the commission of the European Community".

Reviewing various agreements on economic, scientific, cultural cooperation signed between the two countries

since late 1989, particularly the Italian Government's decision to give, for the three-year term 1990/92, an aid to development to Vietnam worth 160 milliard Italian lire (about 140 million US dollars), the ambassador noted that Italy was the first Western country to resume development aid to Vietnam. This aid, part of which is given in 'grants' and the other part in 'soft loans', directs itself towards sectors considered strategical for the development of Vietnam, like telecomunications between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, an aid program for water logging control and drainage system improvement in Hanoi, support to national fisheries and aquaculture development program, the Saigon River water supply system, mother and child health protection in Ha Bac Province, pharmaceutical emergency aid for Hue city, sericulture development project in Bao Loc, exploitation of caves and marble treatment, technical support to tanneries and to leather industry, agricultural mechanisation by small petrol engines, establishment of a factory for production of high-density tubes for civil and agricultural uses, a rice mill project and a 'commodity aid'. The Italian part has also suggested to competent Vietnamese authorities the signature of an agreement for a scientific and technological cooperation which would also provide for exchanges of researchers, joint conduct of research and technological development projects, joint organisation of seminars, conferences and professional specialisation courses, and exchanges of scientific and technological information".

"As we can see, Italian-Vietnamese relations have positively developed and articulated in this past period in the interest of both countries. Therefore, I hope, that these relations could expand more and more in all sectors, the ambassador said in conclusion. [no end quote as received]

Australia

Ministers Welcome UN Moratorium on Driftnets

BK2412081491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Australia has welcomed the United Nations General Assembly resolution placing a moratorium on driftnet fishing in international waters by the end of next year. The decision by the General Assembly followed an international campaign by several countries including Australia, for an end to driftnetting.

In a joint statement, Australia's Foreign Affairs and Primary Industry ministers have welcomed the move, saying it represents a major step towards responsible and ecologically sustainable use of the world's fishing resources. Environmentalists have labeled driftnets, which can be up to 50 km long, walls of death as they trap not only fish but also whales, seals, dolphins, and birds.

Minister Questions 'Official' Dili Death Toll

BK2412074591 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said an official inquiry into last month's massacre in the East Timorese capital, Dili, might find that more people were killed than the figure so far officially stated. Just back from Indonesia, Senator Evans rejected claims that the judge running the inquiry was said to agree with the official figure of 19 people killed. In a radio interview, Senator Evans said the judge had indicated that only 19 bodies were found rather than only 19 bodies were killed.

[Begin Evans recording] That will settle that obviously very important distinction, and I think even General Try Sutrisno, who has been very wildly quoted as (?one of the) robust defenders of the military and the most robust supporter of the 19 figure. I have [words indistinct] the number of most recent comments are being very much more flexible in terms of the way in which he has described, the numbers that might had been killed. So, I think it is quite likely that there will be a finding that the figure was higher than that. [end recording]

New Zealand

Committee To Assess Saftey of Nuclear Ships

BK2312003291 Hong Kong AFP in English 2351 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] Wellington, Dec 23 (AFP)—The New Zealand Government announced Monday it would create a four-member committee under the chairmanship of a retired judge to report on the safety of nuclear-powered ships.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger said in a statement the government wanted an independent and scientific assessment of safety, environmental and other concerns that would arise if nuclear-powered ships entered New Zealand ports.

Bolger said he would set up the committee after President George Bush announced in September that U.S. surface warships would no longer carry nuclear weapons.

That decision opened the way for resumed warship visits to New Zealand, which ended in 1985 with the introduction of anti-nuclear legislation.

The United States responded by ending defence and intelligence cooperation with New Zealand, and the National Party government has been striving to normalise relations since it came to power in October last year.

The outstanding problem is that anti-nuclear laws also ban nuclear-powered vessels from New Zealand ports. The government is considering amending the legislation but first wants an assessment of the risk factor.

The committee will begin work in January and report to the government by the middle of next year.

The chairman of the committee is retired Appeal Court Judge Sir Edward Somers. Its members are physics professor Alan Poletti, zoology professor Patricia Bergquist and civil engineering professor David Elms.

They are all New Zealanders.

Papua New Guinea

Premier To Visit Indonesia, Sign Security Pact

BK2412102091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Dec 24 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu is expected to make an official visit to Indonesia next month to sign a new security arrangement between the two countries, officials said here Tuesday.

Dates for the visit have not been finalised, they said.

While Namaliu has visited Indonesia in the past as foreign affairs minister, it will be his first trip as prime minister.

Namaliu, in a statement on Tuesday, announced his government had approved Papua New Guinea's joining a Status of Forces Agreement with Indonesia.

He said such an agreement would not be a military pact, but one which allowed for "cooperative activities" between the two countries' security forces.

While it would cater for such matters as training and technical assistance programmes, it is understood the arrangement would also enable joint military action by the two countries along their common border.

The 800 kilometre (500 mile) border divides Papua New Guinea on the eastern half and the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya to the west.

Rebel activities by members of a Irian Jaya separatist movement in the area has been a matter of extreme sensitivity and security concern to both countries, which in 1987 entered into a formal treaty, known as the Treaty of Mutual Respect, Friendship and Cooperation, guiding their relations.

Announcing the new security arrangement, Namaliu said it was agreed to during negotiations between Indonesian and Papua New Guinea officials here early this month.

Namaliu said the negotiations were in regard to a range of cooperative activities between the two countries' security forces.

"Cooperation in the area of security with Indonesia is an important element of Papua New Guinea's relations with its nearest neighbour, particularly in the light of their security interests along the common border and development affecting it," Namaliu said.

"It must be clearly understood that the status of force agreement is not a security pact," he said.

Papua New Guinea has similar arrangements with Australia and the United States, and another is being negotiated with New Zealand.

Premier Namaliu Predicts Peace on Bougainville

BK2412052891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0407 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Dec 24 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said Tuesday that chances of a genuine and lasting peace on Bougainville were better now than in the past.

In his Christmas message to the nation, Namaliu said the situation on the island was improving and an end to the already three-year separatist crisis seemed in sight.

But as he praised his government's restoration and rehabilitation efforts, reports from Bougainville said security forces in a direct challenge to authority unilaterally reimposed a blockade on the mainland.

Government officials including Bougainville administrator Sam Tulo said many defence force officials on Buka Island had halted further shipment of supplies to sick people because they were upset at not being consulted on ship charters, supplies and people being transported to and from the mainland.

Authorities in Port Moresby could not be reached for comment, but Tulo said he had passed on to the government a letter from the security forces explaining their action.

If anything, this blockade is more than likely to set back progress already being made by the government to win the confidence of people on Bougainville.

In his address Namaliu said: "Today, the majority of the people of Bougainville are benefitting from national government services and their own district authorities.

"An end to the hardship, and division, in the province can certainly be achieved in the next few months," he said.

Namaliu urged all Papua New Guineans to hope and pray that the success already achieved continued, and the goodwill being built would lead to "a just and lasting peace."

"That is a worthy goal we can achieve, and it is one my government will do everything possible to achieve in the crucial weeks ahead," he said.

In another development, separatist rebel leader Francis Ona on Monday accused a senior Red Cross official of collaborating with the government to create a false impression of the level of health problems on the island.

Ona demanded in a statement that the official, Damien Wohlfahrt, a medical doctor based in Rabaul who has made extensive visits to Bougainville, be replaced.

He said Wohlfahrt's claims that health problems on the island were not as serious as initially suggested "raises serious doubts about his neutrality as a member of the Red Cross."

"Dr. Wohlfahrt's statement suggested to Bougainville that he is a collaborator of PNG and doing public relations for the Port Moresby government," Ona said.

"The Bougainville crisis demanded for people with outright honesty and impartiality to provide humanitarian assistance to the people on the island," he added.

Ona said the interim government on Bougainville had evidence to prove thousands of deaths, including those of mother and children, had resulted from the government's three-month economic blockade last year.

Wohlfahrt's reports, sent to the Geneva headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross and made available to the media, said basic health services had been maintained on Bougainville by volunteers during the blockade, and that most complaints were for malaria.

Only hospital services, notably obstetrics and surgery, were unavailable, his report said.